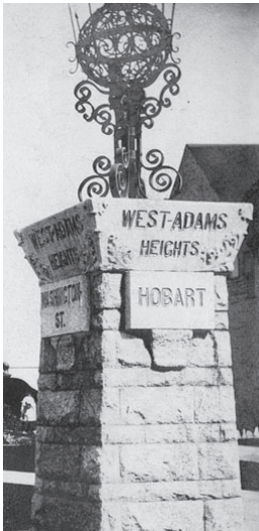


West Adams Matters

West Adams Heights: A Historic Neighborhood Faces Challenges by Michael Smith and Greg Stegall

"Nowadays we scarcely notice the high stone gates which mark the entrances on Hobart, Harvard, and Oxford streets, south of Washington Boulevard. For one thing, the traffic is too heavy, too swift; and then, again, the gates have been obscured by intrusions of shops and stores. At the base of the stone pillars appears the inscription 'West Adams Heights.' There was a time when these entranceways were formidable and haughty, for they marked the ways to one of the first elite residential areas in Los Angeles. . . In the unplanned early-day chaos of Los Angeles, West Adams Heights was obviously something very special, an island in an ocean of bungalows—approachable, but withdrawn and reclusive—one of the few surviving examples of planned urban elegance of the turn of the century."

— Carey McWilliams, "The Evolution of Sugar Hill," *Script*, March, 1949: 30.



Today West Adams Heights is still obviously something special. The past seventy years, however, have not been kind. In 1963 the Santa Monica Freeway cut through the heart of West Adams Heights, dividing the neighborhood and obscuring its continuity. In the 1970s the city paved over the red brick streets and removed the ornate street lighting. After the neighborhood's zoning was changed to a higher density, overzealous developers claimed several mansions for apartment buildings, before the area was down-zoned again. Despite these challenges, however, "The Heights," as the area was once known, has managed to retain and regain some of its former elegance.

Now, West Adams Heights is suddenly in the news — not just in our own West Adams WAHA Matters newsletter, but in the *Los Angeles Times* and on our local broadcast stations, reporting the City Attorney's action to close down two unlicensed group homes at 2205 and 2217-19 South Hobart, with a Receiver appointed to repair these two historic mansions (see story, page 9). Literally on the same day,

(continued on page 8)

WAHA's Annual Meeting and Board Elections Sunday, April 6, 4-7 p.m.; 1703 Virginia Rd. (Lafayette Square)

Please join WAHA for the annual Membership Meeting and Board Election at the home of Janel Glover and Howard Bennett at their wonderful Italian Revival home in Lafayette Square. Candidates' Statements are on page 11. You also won't want to miss the opportunity to see this gorgeous house and hear Derek Japha give a short presentation on his and other neighbors' efforts to eliminate blight and bring great architecture back to life on West Adams Boulevard. This is a potluck and your homemade dishes are welcome, but we also encourage you to consider supporting your local West Adams businesses by bringing a favorite dish from a local eatery. As usual, WAHA will provide beverages. Please contact Suzie Henderson at events@westadamsheritage.org if you are able to help with set up at 2:30 or clean up at the end of the party. We look forward to seeing you there. ●



An Island of Lights in University Park by Jim Childs

"Third Time is the Charm."

"The Right Time and the Right Place."

"If You Build It They Will Come."

The clichés swirled around in my head as I dusted off the 20-year-old project again in February. Maybe this would finally be the moment when "ISLAND OF LIGHTS" would finally be green-lighted. A beacon of lights would finally illuminate the gateway to University Park.

And why not? The concept of a public art installation, designed by a famed artist utilizing historic street lights as a centerpiece to the revival of a small pocket park called the Hoover-Union Triangle, is just as valid today as it was in 1993, when the project was first proposed, and again in 2000, when the project was revived — the first time.

But today the Hoover-Union Triangle is still a vacant, derelict remnant parcel of land. Its patches of brown grass and dirt sends the wrong visual message as a gateway to our University Park community: that we are a neighborhood that's been overlooked by city officials and citizens alike. This long-neglected site, controlled by the Los Angeles Department of Public Works and the General Services Department, distracts passing visitors away from all the positive growth in our community that has been made possible by the dedication of a resilient group of neighbors working hard for several decades.

(continued on page 14)

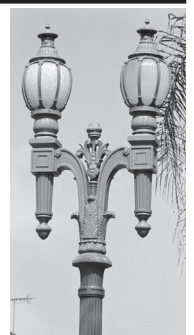


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Stepping Out:

Eat Your Way Through West Adams and South Los Angeles

Saturday, March 22

Attention WAHA Foodies — Secret City Tour's culinary excursions land in West Adams in March. "Eat Your Way Through L.A.: South L.A. Tour" will travel south of the 10 Freeway, starting at 10 a.m. in Historic West Adams and heading south to Chesterfield Square, Canterbury Knolls and Watts, among other diverse neighborhoods (with diverse gastronomic treats!) in South and Southwest Los Angeles. See full details and learn how to purchase tickets on page 6.



Oil Drilling Update *by Laura Meyers*

Last month, we told you about crowded community meetings and protests over intensified oil and gas production at three sites in Historic West Adams. Many West Adams neighbors are concerned about "well stimulation," which is a catch-all phrase that includes hydraulic fracturing (or "fracking"), acidization, gravel-packing, and other methodologies that may squeeze oil out of shale rock formations. For these active neighbors, the past several weeks have been a whirlwind of new meetings, public hearings, and the beginnings of an initiative to change how the City of Los Angeles regulates oil drilling and production in urbanized oil drilling districts.

Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas (FMOG), which operates two active drill sites and also has one shuttered site (at 4th and Washington) in West Adams, joined an independent geologist for a 3-hour presentation and discussion with a small group of CD10 community "leaders" in early February. The company stated, again, that it has no current plans to utilize non-conventional well-stimulation technologies (even though a public report relative to its Jefferson and Budlong site indicates the opposite.) FMOG also did a shorter version of the presentation at the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council (UNNC) Governing Board meeting on February 6. UNNC has also created a working group to explore changes to the City's regulatory framework governing oil production.

Meanwhile, Jefferson Park resident Steve Peckman attempted to file an appeal against the installation of a "CEB800" Clean Emissions Burner to burn waste gas in the lower, landscaped terrace level of the Murphy Drillsite. The proposed installation would expand the natural gas production operations outside the previously-approved perimeter of the existing drillsite, without benefit of a public hearing or other public process. Peckman's first attempt was rejected — over words: the Zoning Administrator had labeled his decision a "Communication" rather than a "Determination," and then decided that Communications cannot be appealed. The City Attorney is reviewing the situation, at the request of CD10.

At press time, two separate public hearings were scheduled to be held on February 25 in City Hall. The first was a Zoning Administrator hearing to review the proposed drilling of three wells at FMOG's drillsite located at Jefferson and Budlong. The second hearing was slated at the Los Angeles City Council's PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management) Committee to consider a proposed ordinance that would place a moratorium on all well-stimulation activities until a comprehensive study is conducted and the City Council is assured that there are no health and safety risks to the city's citizenry.

(continued on page 5)

President's Message by John Patterson

With the month speeding by so quickly, we find ourselves fast approaching our annual Membership General Meeting and the election of approximately one third of our Board of Directors. This will take place on Sunday, April 6, so now would be the time to consider stepping forward to assist in the management of our wonderful organization.

I am extremely proud of the progress that has occurred over the past few years, and want to thank and congratulate all of the sitting members of the WAHA Board of Directors. I commend you for all that you have done, both individually and collectively, in helping to manage, direct and shape WAHA's growth and progress as an organization.

WAHA can only flourish with the active participation of our members in positions of leadership. You have probably noticed that we have found it necessary to curtail some of our activities — such as our ever-so-popular and award-winning *Coffee Cart Strolls* — due to a lack of someone to volunteer to take a lead to set them up. You might also have taken note that last year did not see either a *March Art in Historic Places* tour, or the annual *Landmarks of West Adams* tour in June. If we want to bring these tours back to our calendar, this can only happen if someone new steps forward and raises their hand to offer their help in making these events a reality.

The West Adams community continues to astound me with the level of its participation, especially when that “cast of thousands” rises to the occasion of our Holiday Tour. That said, it would be great if just a few more folks would “step up to the plate” to ease a bit of the burden that has of late fallen on too few shoulders. This organization was founded on the principal of volunteerism; a secondary result of which has been great camaraderie and friendships among those of us fortunate to call West Adams home.

John Patterson may be reached by e-mail at president@westadamsheritage.org

West Adams Heritage Association Hosts HPOZ Gathering

One of the remarkable achievements in preservation is that out of the City's 27 HPOZs, West Adams is home to (or is proximate) to twelve.

The HPOZs are: The “Triplets” (Country Club Park, Wilshire Park and Windsor Village), Jefferson Park, Lafayette Square, University Park, Western Heights, Pico Union, Adams Normandie, Harvard Heights, West Adams Terrace, and the North University Park Specific Plan (which is a specific plan that includes historical components, and projects are reviewed per the HPOZ ordinance).

Because West Adams has such a vested interest and a responsibility regarding Historic Preservation Overlay Zones, it was suggested that WAHA host a gathering of HPOZs in the West Adams area. United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council (UNNC) at the same time suggested such a gathering for HPOZs within the UNNC area. WAHA has teamed with UNNC to provide a setting where HPOZ board members, persons who are interested in becoming board members, and also those who would like to seek HPOZ status for their West Adams neighborhoods, could come together and discuss experiences, what is working, issues, challenges, and benefits.

WAHA's Preservation Committee (in association with the UNNC) will host the gathering on March 15, at the home of Jean Cade, 1821 South Victoria Circle from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be a working meeting organized to maximize the time effectively.

This is not a general meeting and RSVPs are absolutely required. Current HPOZ board members have received invitations; if you are also interested in attending, please e-mail preservation@westadamsheritage.org. ●

Judge Grants Temporary Restraining Order to Stop Work on Bishop Residence

A judge ordered construction to be halted—temporarily—on the project involving the gutted Bishop Residence at Adams and Menlo, after WAHA went to court in February.

WAHA has challenged the City's use of a categorical exemption for approval of the project affecting the Roger Williams Baptist Church and Bishop Residence at 1342 West Adams Blvd., and in October filed a legal case in the matter. The issues and details of the case, *West Adams Heritage Association v. City of Los Angeles*, have been extensively covered in previous *WAHA Matters* newsletters.

In January, the developers (1342 West Adams Holding LLC) obtained building permits. Soon afterwards, WAHA members observed construction activities at the Bishop Residence site. Since the construction permitted by the building permits issued by the City would adversely affect the historicity of these buildings by demolishing or modifying important architectural features and historic fabric, WAHA (represented by attorney Amy Minter of Chatten-Brown & Carstens) appeared in Superior Court on February 11, to ask for a temporary restraining order to insure that no further changes be made to the Bishop Residence site until the matter is adjudicated.

Over opposition by the developer (represented by attorney Kristina Badaraitė of Luna & Glushon), Judge Luis A. Lavin granted WAHA's request. The developer (Paras Bhakta and 1342 West Adams Holdings LLC) is “restrained and enjoined from demolishing, renovating or performing any construction work on 1342 West Adams Boulevard, except for work necessary to ensure structural integrity of the property” until the parties return to court on March 4. WAHA was not required to post a bond. ●

Stepping Out

The California Preservation Foundation (CPF) Slates Annual Conference *Redefining Preservation: Dialogues and Directions in Cultural Heritage*

Tuesday-Friday, April 22-25

Combine a great vacation at historic Asilomar, on the Monterey Peninsula, with historic preservation education at the annual California Preservation Conference in April.

This is really a don't-miss opportunity to experience historic architecture with fellow preservation enthusiasts, while learning how to better document and save West Adams' own heritage.

Asilomar's rich history dates back to its origins as a YWCA Leadership Camp built in 1913. Known as Monterey Peninsula's "Refuge by the Sea," the state park is located on 107 acres of state beach and conference grounds, within the quaint and scenic town of Pacific Grove (and adjacent to Carmel-by-the-Sea). Asilomar is celebrated for its restored dune ecosystem and architectural significance, with cozy, historic structures designed by renowned architect Julia Morgan between 1913 and 1928. Thirteen of the Morgan-designed buildings remain today. All are listed on the National Register, and constitute the largest collection of Morgan's Arts & Crafts architecture.

The California Preservation Foundation is a statewide preservation organization whose mission is "to ensure the protection of California's diverse cultural heritage and historic places through education, advocacy and leadership." West Adams Heritage Association is a member and has often participated in the conferences and the 3-Minute Success Stories (humorous and fun skits that demonstrate preservation victories).

Redefining Preservation

This year's conference will bring together leading professionals from across California to discuss new models of heritage conservation that will guide CPF's work into the future. The retreat setting at Asilomar is perfect for the 2014 conference and the introspective nature of this year's sessions.

Speakers will address the changes facing historic preservation: technology, diversity, our role as advocates, community planning, and professional practice. The conference opens with the Plenary Session and a new Opening Forum with a panel of leading professionals, designed to encourage participation from all conference attendees. The conference will end with a closing forum to gather information from attendees about lessons learned and will consider courses of action that will enable historic preservation organizations to succeed in a new reality.



Conference Highlights

The Plenary Session will feature keynote speakers Malcolm Margolin, Heyday Books, and Aaron Robertson, Deputy Director, California State Parks. The Opening Forum features a panel of experts, led by Nore Winter, Winter and Co.

The pre-conference workshops include a trip to Salinas to study historic contexts and agricultural resources and a workshop on the California Historical Building Code. CPF also includes tours of building restorations (Carmel Mission and Royal Presidio Chapel), Moderne Architectural Tours, Tours of Monterey -- Old Town and Cannery Row, Monterey Peninsula Masterpieces of Architecture and Modern Architecture. All-day trips include tours of Pt. Sur and Pt. Pinos Lighthouses and a very special tour of Hearst Castle studying the ongoing restoration of the Castle, including the latest non-destructive technology, and the cultural landscapes of the Castle.

Special Events will be held onsite at Asilomar. Meet up with old friends at the Opening Reception, to be held in the conference center at Asilomar, the 3-Minute Success Stories in the Asilomar Chapel, the International Luncheon with the Global Heritage Fund's Vincent Michael, PhD. and the Annual Membership Meeting.

Register now to get Early Bird prices. Conference fees go up after March 15, and again in April. Conference attendees are encouraged to stay at Asilomar's hospitality facilities, which includes all meals; CPF will give you a further discount if you do stay at Asilomar. Go to the CPF website, www.CaliforniaPreservation.org, for more information and to register for the conference.

The Asilomar Story

The Asilomar concept was first born in 1897, when the YWCA held its first Western Regional Conference at Mills College near Oakland, California. Later, between 1900 and 1911, the Pacific Coast Field Committee conferred each year at the old Hotel Capitola near the beach at Santa Cruz. The committee was then composed of some of the most influential and prestigious women in California: Phoebe Apperson Hearst (mother of pioneer publisher, William Randolph Hearst), Ellen Browning Scripps (a successful publisher), Mrs. Warren Olney and Mary Sroufe Merrill (who authored a history of Asilomar and its founding).

At the end of the 19th century, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) played an active role in providing shelter for the young women who were coming to the nation's big cities in search of low-paying jobs in factories and offices. The YWCA staff, students, and supporters met periodically to discuss women's issues of that time — and to find solutions, such as breaking into career fields dominated by men. These meetings eventually led to the formation of the YWCA Regional

Stepping Out

Leadership Conferences, and the western region was called the Pacific Coast Field Committee.

By 1912, the conference was in need of a permanent home, and San Francisco architect Julia Morgan was hired.

Julia Morgan was true to the California Arts & Crafts style when she designed Asilomar. Here, the buildings were designed from the inside out, with the main character and expression found in the interiors. Open spaces and natural light dominated, with the craftsmanship of the structures becoming the art of the building. The use of local wood and stone was fundamental. Weaving patterns together out of lines, colors and textures, the result was a lovely rhythm and harmony. Repetition of form was created throughout each building, echoing its character. A fireplace was often the centerpiece of a room, as Morgan felt that it represented the soul of the structure. ●

Community Matters

Oil Drilling Update *continued from page 2*

WAHA member Leslie Evans posted a comprehensive article about oil drilling in West Adams on his West Adams-Normandie website. He observed, "There are many complex technical, public health, political, and regulatory issues that are in play here. Some residents want the oil sites shut down. Some want new drilling prohibited or bans against the use of hydrofracturing and similar technologies. Others at the minimum want them thoroughly audited for health risks, all such risks promptly eliminated, and some more vigorous system of oversight put in place than what now exists.

"The matter is complicated by the absence in the City of Los Angeles of a comprehensive regulatory framework for oil drilling and production within city limits. Statutes, though detailed on how to apply to dig an oil well, and categorical in prohibiting odorous fumes or excessive noise that affect adjacent residences, are vague on the specifics and on enforcement, generally referring regulation of existing oil sites to individual Zoning Administrators, who are not proactive in looking into conditions at drill sites or even have any specific rules on what kind of complaints can trigger a zoning hearing. Zoning Administrators have little guidance from the city code and must decide in each case what conditions to impose on a producer.

"This situation is substantially different over the border in Los Angeles County, where in 2006 two massive emissions of toxic fumes from the giant Inglewood Oil Field raised such an outburst of community protest that the then-operator, Plains Exploration and Production (PXP), was compelled to agree to the creation of a Community Standards District with far more specific and stringent regulations than now exist in Los Angeles, and an oversight body to enforce them."

Read the full article here:

<http://www.westadams-normandie.com/newsarticles-menu/183-west-adams-oil-blues> ●



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Stepping Out

Eat Your Way Through West Adams and South Los Angeles

Saturday, March 22 10 a.m.

Check-in Location: Jefferson Park

Tickets: www.EatSouthLA.brownpapertickets.com

Attention WAHA Foodies — Secret City Tour's culinary excursions land in West Adams in March. "Eat Your Way Through L.A.: South L.A. Tour" will travel south of the 10 Freeway, starting in Historic West Adams and heading south to Chesterfield Square, Canterbury Knolls and Watts, among other diverse neighborhoods (with diverse gastronomic treats!) in South and Southwest Los Angeles. "This tour will give you a deeper understanding of our city's culture," explains John Bwarie, co-owner, with wife Laura Bwarie, of Secret City.

The Bwaries launched Secret City in 2012. Their goal: to promote Los Angeles and the businesses, history, and neighborhoods that make it thrive. Along with food tours, Secret City hosts walking tours and other bus tours featuring little-known spots, shopping secrets and outdoor activities in Los Angeles. The "Eat Your Way Through L.A." food tours are by invitation only (but WAHA is invited!) at this time, due to the limited space allowed.

Participants in Secret City's "Eat Your Way Through L.A." food tours are guided through the city on a luxury bus. For the cost of the approximately four-hour tour, (prices range from \$45-\$65) guests are provided at least 5 tastes of foods from various restaurants and establishments around Los Angeles, often directly from the chef or owner. The tours also feature information about Los Angeles and the food "theme," and attendees can win prizes with trivia and games while enjoying the ride around town. No two tours are alike, and space is limited to the capacity of the bus. The tour cost is all inclusive, but attendees are encouraged to bring cash with them if they wish to purchase drinks (beyond the water provided) or other items.

The Secret City "Eat Your Way" South L.A. tour price is \$60. But here's our secret: WAHA members get \$10 off the March 22nd tour. Log onto www.EatSouthLA.brownpapertickets.com and use the discount password "WAHA1." Those who reserve will learn the meet-up location.

For more information or to be added to the "Secret City Citizens" notification list, e-mail Bwarie directly at SecretCityUSA@gmail.com or follow @SecretCityLA on Twitter & Instagram or SecretCityTours on Facebook. ●



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Heritage Day Coming to El Pueblo Monument

Sunday, April 27 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For the 5th year, Heritage Day is happening — the largest annual gathering of historic non-profit organizations (including WAHA) in Los Angeles. And for the 2nd year, the event is being held downtown — specifically at The Pico House and Hellman Quon building — at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument—so a very appropriate venue.

You really should go. This is for you, the history lovers, the ones whose eyes light up when someone mentions the sitting president at such and such a time, when such and such a building was erected. You know who you are. You are the people who know the term “anachronism,” and you can’t help looking for it in period films, novels and museum exhibits. You value history. You know that without it, we as a culture can be un-rooted, poorer and often very foolish. As a history nerd you probably often feel like a weirdo.

You will find fellowship at Heritage Day. You will be impressed at the number of historic organizations actually exist here in Los Angeles. You will be touched at how much they aspire to accomplish, learning about history, sharing knowledge about history, and making Los Angeles a better place for everyone (all with about forty-seven dollars in the bank). You will gather names, numbers, websites, brochures (bring a satchel). You will learn things you did not previously know, and, finally, you will not feel so alone in your appreciation of the old, the nearly forgotten, the past.

So go. Try and take the bus, the train or the Metro to get there—all roads do seem to meet at Union Station (Amtrak, Metrolink, Purple, Red and Gold Metro lines, many city busses, and the 10, 5, and 101 freeways). Parking is ample and all proceeds support the Pueblo Monument. Bring your walking shoes so you can take a mini-field trip to Olvera Street, Chinatown or City Hall and Grand Park. There will be food to eat on Olvera Street, at Philippe’s the Original, in Chinatown, at Union Station. But more on that later. For now, just know: Sunday, April 27. El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Heritage Day. ●

— *By Elizabeth Fenner*



El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument

Esotouric’s “Weird West Adams” Crime Bus Tour

Saturday, March 22

12 noon – 4 p.m. (Check-in 11:30 a.m.)

Tour starts at Benny H. Potter West Adams Avenues Memorial Park, 2413 2nd Ave.

Reservations/advance payment required

On this unexpected and sometimes wacky guided bus tour through the Beverly Hills of the early 20th Century, passengers will marvel at the Krazy Kafitz family’s litany of murder-suicides, attempted husband slayings, Byzantine estate battles and mad bombings; visit the shortest street in Los Angeles (15-foot-long Powers Place, nestled among the mansions of Alvarado Terrace); discover which fabulous mansion was once transformed into a functioning whiskey factory using every room in the house; and stroll through Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, site of notable burials and odd graveside crimes.

Learn about such former West Adams denizens as the most famous dwarf in Hollywood, mass suicide ringleader Reverend Jim Jones, wacky millionaires who couldn’t control their automobiles, human mole bank robbers, comically inept fumigators, kids trapped in tar pits, and the death scenes of Motown soul sensation Marvin Gaye and 1920s Angels baseball catcher Gus Sandberg. Passengers on this funny and informative tour will forever see the West Adams district in a new light.

Esotouric bus adventures was co-founded by history mavens and staunch preservationists Kim Cooper and Richard Schave. It debuted in May 2007 and soon was offering more than a dozen provocative tours into the secret heart of Los Angeles and the incredible personalities that made the city great, from the mad scientists of Pasadena Confidential to literary lions like Raymond Chandler and Charles Bukowski. Packed with original research, startling connections, snappy asides, vintage slideshows, and visits to off-the-beaten-track landmarks, each Esotouric bus adventure celebrates the true culture of a city too often dismissed as superficial and soulless.

Cost for Weird West Adams tour: \$58. Visit <http://esotouric.com/westadams-3-22-14> for more information and to purchase tickets. ●



A Weird West Adams character: Sweet Daddy Grace



Los Angeles Times Festival of Books Returns to USC

Hundreds of Vendors, Thousands of Books

Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13

The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, the largest book festival in the country, returns to the USC campus in April. Free to the public, this annual event brings people who create books together with the people who love to read them. Meet authors and publishers, hear readings and celebrate the diverse ethnic and cultural communities of Los Angeles through the city’s biggest annual literary event. Great for all ages! ●

Preservation Matters

West Adams Heights *continued from page 1*

February 20, Council President Herb Wesson nominated another West Adams Heights mansion, a residence designed by famed architect Fredrick Roehrig and located at 2067 S. Hobart, as a Historic Cultural Monument (see story, page 9). WAHA had previously reported that the mansions at 2200 S. Harvard and 2218 S. Harvard were endangered as well, with the current owners offering them for sale as “tear-downs,” despite 2218, the Wesley Beckett Residence, being designated as Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument No. 117.

Indeed, of late many preservation advocates have been pondering how to save “The Hill,” which has long been mired in gray, quasi-designated as a historic district requiring building permit review, and a list of Contributing Structures, including 2205 S. Hobart and 2217-19 S. Hobart (the former Louise Beavers residence). But although the portion of West Adams Heights that sits north of the 10 Freeway is within the boundaries of the Harvard Heights Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ), the southerly portion is neither an actual HPOZ nor an official National Register Historic District.

History of “The Heights”

The West Adams Heights tract was laid out in 1902, in what was then a wheat field on the western edge of town. Although the freeway now creates an artificial barrier, the original neighborhood boundaries were Adams Boulevard, La Salle Ave, Washington Boulevard, and Western Avenue. Costly improvements were integrated into the development, such as 75-foot-wide boulevards (which were some of the first contoured streets not to follow the city grid), lots elevated from the sidewalk, ornate street lighting, and large granite monuments with red-brass electroliers at the entrance to every street. These upgrades increased the lot values, which helped ensure the tract would be an enclave for the elite.



The Wesley Beckett Residence, HCM.No. 117, located at 2218 S. Harvard, has been abused and is now threatened with development — its owner is advertising it for sale as a “tear-down”

West Adams Heights, now also known as Sugar Hill, played a major role in the Civil Rights movement in Los Angeles. In 1938 Norman Houston, president of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company, and an African American, purchased a home at 2211 South Hobart Boulevard. Legal Action from eight homeowners quickly ensued. During that period, other prominent African Americans began to make Sugar Hill their home – including Golden State Mutual Insurance Company president Norman Houston, actress Hattie McDaniel, dentists and civil rights activists John and Vada Sommerville, actress Louise Beavers, band leader Johnny Otis, performers Pearl Bailey and Ethel Waters, and many more.

On December 6, 1945, the “Sugar Hill Cases” were heard before Judge Thurmond Clarke, in Los Angeles Superior Court. He made history by become the first judge in America to use the 14th Amendment to disallow the enforcement of covenant race restrictions. The *Los Angeles Sentinel* quoted Judge Clark: “This court is of the opinion that it is time that [African Americans] are accorded, without reservations and evasions, the full rights guaranteed them under the 14th Amendment.” Gradually, over the last century people of nearly every background have made historic West Adams their home.

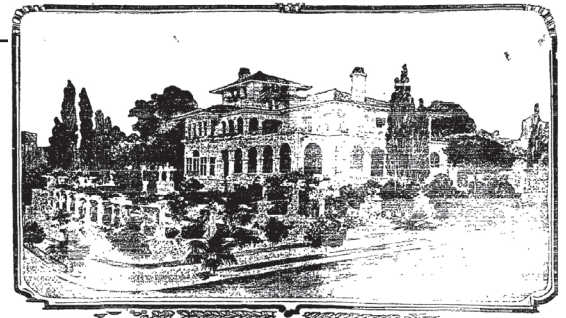
Looking Forward

The northern end of West Adams Heights is now protected as part of the Harvard Heights Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ). It seems clear to us that the entirety of West Adams Heights should be nominated as a National Register Historic District, for the quality of homes, the prominence of the architects, notoriety of the people who lived in the neighborhood, and the role it played in civil rights.

Perhaps a quote adapted from a fireplace mantle in the Frederick Rindge mansion best symbolizes the optimism which exists in West Adams: “California Shall be Ours as Long as the Stars Remain.” ●

Check out Michael Smith’s West Adams Heights photos at http://www.flickr.com/photos/kansas_sebastian/sets/72157614917562301/

Palatial House of Italian Type, a Style Adapted to Southland.



Original rendering of 2200 S. Harvard Blvd. in 1911



A West Adams Heights Diamond in the Rough

Sometimes a nondescript exterior hides a marvelous treasure inside. WAHA has quietly been working with West Adams Heights/Sugar Hill neighbors to save one such gem, a true diamond in the rough: the John L. Matheson/Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) California Mission Residence, designed by famed architect Fredrick Roehrig in 1909.

Located at 2067 Hobart in West Adams Heights, the house (pictured above left) was brought to everyone's attention last year when it was advertised for sale as a teardown in favor of apartment units, and an estate sale offered not only belongings but also such house parts as the windows and light fixtures. The realtors to this date have yet to disclose to potential buyers that the property is located within the Harvard Heights HPOZ.

However, WAHA and the neighbors also learned that in the original 1998 historic survey for the HPOZ, the fact that the residence was designed by Roehrig was overlooked. As a result, the property was identified as a Non-Contributor to the HPOZ, which could mean its demolition would be more easily permitted (even though the zoning is relatively low density, another fact that the realtor seems not to be revealing to prospective buyers).

In October, concerned preservationists attended the Harvard Heights HPOZ board meeting to request that the status of the house be changed from Non-Contributor to Contributor, Altered, which would add significant protections. The interior of the residence is damaged from a previous fire, but most character-defining architectural elements—including exceptional brick work, exotic wood inlays, arched niches and windows and other Gothic Revival elements—are intact and restorable.

The original historic consultant had apparently not pulled building permits and did not realize that the primary changes to the exterior of the house took place during the HPOZ's period of significance, and were done by a very significant later owner, the Mormon (LDS) Church, for which this residence was its California Mission and Western headquarters as well as the later home of the President of LDS's California Mission, Henry H. Blood, the former Governor of Utah.

With a staff report still pending, the threat to the residence escalated in February, with would-be developers going to Building & Safety and the Planning Department to see how many units could be built inside the house (presumably by gutting it.)

Happily, Council District 10 staff and Council President Herb Wesson agreed that the community should not risk the loss of this historic gem. In mid-February, Council President Wesson nominated the Matheson/LDS Mission Residence as an Historic Cultural Monument. The Cultural Heritage Commission will tour the house later this spring, make a recommendation, and then the nomination will go to the full City Council for a final decision. ●



Actress Louise Beavers once owned the historic home at 2219 S. Hobart

City Attorney Shuttles Two West Adams Heights Homes

Two Historic West Adams homes are now in the hands of a court-appointed receiver.

Neighbors in West Adams Heights had noticed repeated police visits to the two "Agape" homes on the 2200 block of South Hobart in recent months, so it was not a complete surprise to hear that Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer had filed a civil enforcement action against the owners of the pair of unlicensed assisted living facilities for allegedly jeopardizing the safety and health of physically and mentally disabled occupants.

Feuer sought, and the court appointed, the receiver to immediately relocate these individuals to appropriate living quarters. In addition, the City Attorney asked that the two houses, located at 2205 and 2217-19 South Hobart, be declared a public nuisance and be "abated," which gives the receiver the power to make repairs to bring the buildings up to code.

"These residents are among the most vulnerable in our society and they were forced to live a daily nightmare," Feuer explained. "We are bringing that nightmare to a close."

Both of the houses are included as Contributors to a West Adams Heights Historic District that was designated as part of the former redevelopment plan, and later added to California's list of historic properties.

The gabled Craftsman-style Kate A. Kelly House (2205 South Hobart) was designed by architects Sumner Hunt and A. Wesley Eager in 1905.

The residence at 2217-2219 South Hobart was converted to a duplex at some point, but the 2½ story structure was originally built as a single family home. By far its most famous owner, starting in about 1938, was the African American actress Louise Beavers, who was one of the eight defendants (along with friend and neighbor Hattie McDaniel) in the important 1945 Los Angeles civil rights case, *Tolhurst v. Venerable*, in which Judge Thurmond Clarke threw out the restrictive racial covenants in West Adams Heights based on the 14th Amendment. Beavers' home was both a social hub and a center for her growing political activism and activities. It is a very important West Adams historic resource.

WAHA, of course, supports the City Attorney's actions to protect the welfare of the individuals who were living in these unlicensed facilities, and to stop the nuisance conditions that were also wreaking havoc on neighbors. But WAHA was also concerned that the receiver perhaps would not recognize the historic status of the two houses, so we reached out to Ken Bernstein, manager of the City's Office of Historic Resources, who wrote back, assuring us that "In checking ZIMAS, I've confirmed that both properties are already flagged for historic preservation review, so a clearance for the Office of Historic Resources should be generated for permit requests."

WAHA will continue to monitor the situation. ●

Preservation Matters

Help Protect the Historic Bekins Building: Hearing on Tuesday, March 18

The architectural drama of the iconic Art Deco former Bekins Building rising high in the sky from the corner of Pico and Crenshaw remains threatened by AT&T's proposal to install a dozen large 4G antennas on the façade of the structure.

Despite the City's own Office of Historic Resources (OHR) architect, serving as the Cultural Heritage Commission's designee, stating in advance that he would not approve the placement of the AT&T units on the highly visible parapets of the landmark building but would approve the 4G antennas on the rooftop, the Zoning Administrator ruled in late December that AT&T could do what it proposed — but only if OHR approves it.

Are you confused? So was WAHA.

In early January, WAHA appealed this strange "yes, but" decision — if only to preserve our rights should OHR change its mind. The public hearing before the South Los Angeles Area Planning Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, at 4:30 p.m. at the South Los Angeles Constituent Service Center, 8475 S. Vermont Avenue (at 84th Street). If possible, please plan to attend — your presence alone speaks volumes to our commitment to area preservation.

Background

The Bekins building, located at 4174 W. Pico Blvd., was determined to be a historic resource — at least for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) — in 2011, when Public Storage purchased the building and proposed a rehabilitation and new signage. At that time, its own historic consultant determined that this particular Bekins Building was the original model building for subsequent Art Deco era/style storage buildings that Bekins went on to erect, and thus it was more important than a simple study of period architecture. About a year later, Public Storage was required to go through a second environmental process when it proposed changing the words of the iconic rooftop signs from "BEKINS" Storage to "PUBLIC" Storage.

Then, SurveyLA identified it as Individually Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

As a part of this current process, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) first wrote a letter stating the building was not historic, then rescinded that letter and subsequently wrote a second letter stating that the project did involve a historic resource and thus was required to follow Secretary of Interior Standards.

If the AT&T installation does not meet the Standards, then under State regulations it cannot be granted a Categorical Exemption.

WAHA believes that AT&T needs to seek a less visible alternative. Please help WAHA in its preservation advocacy in this case. Written comments are encouraged, but they must be submitted no later than Friday, March 7, to Commission Secretary James Williams (reference Case No. ZA-1996-927-CUZ-PA4, ENV-2013-2327-CE), City Hall, 200 N. Spring St., Room #272, Los Angeles CA 90012 – and you need to submit 20 copies. Even better, please come to the hearing on March 18. We'll see you there! ●



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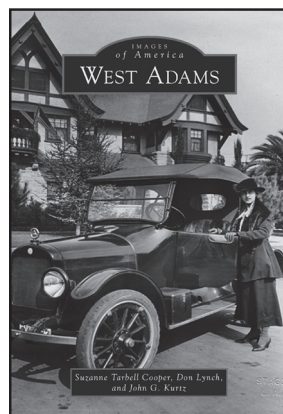
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Welcome to New WAHA Members:

Martha Bringas
Cheryl Finley

Dianne Lawrence
Christopher Polk

ASK NOT WHAT WAHA CAN DO FOR YOU...Candidates' Statements

WAHA is looking for a few good men and women. Our Board of Directors election and Annual Membership Meeting is on Sunday, April 6, and a few candidates have stepped up:

SeElcy Caldwell

I have happily served on the WAHA Board since 2000, helping with events and the Holiday Tour. I have also arranged fun field trips to historic places. I think it is really important to combine socializing and historic preservation – I also think it is really important for WAHA and West Adams residents to become more involved with community issues. I am especially concerned about our families at risk, and would like to see us more involved with these issues. I do hope to be able to serve again on the WAHA Board.

John Patterson

I first joined the WAHA Board of Directors in 2008, and have had the honor of serving as WAHA's President beginning in the Spring of 2010. Over the course of my tenure I have been striving to improve the beauty and quality of our tour publications, website, and membership communications, as well as increase contact and interaction with the greater Los Angeles Preservation Community through an active participation with the L.A. Heritage Alliance. The past two years I have taken the lead in organizing and managing WAHA's most important and visible fundraising vehicle – our Holiday Progressive Dinner Tour. And while much has been achieved, there remains so much more that still needs to be accomplished. Having grown to feel such an integral part of the West Adams community, I hope to continue my participation in this organization's structure and management, and would therefore appreciate receiving your vote of confidence to continue doing so for another term as a member of the WAHA Board of Directors.

Roland Souza

I would enjoy an opportunity to again serve on the WAHA board. I would like to expand our potluck format to include more speakers who could expand our knowledge about the unique histories present in the West Adams community. I would also like to resurrect the "how to restore your historic home" workshops that we have sporadically presented in the past. I hope that we can continue to engage our long term members as well as add new members. I will continue my participation in the important historic preservation committee. Finally I would like to continue to give support to the tours that highlight, for so many Southern Californians, the beauty of the many neighborhoods that make up West Adams. Thank You.

If you are still pondering your involvement and do decide to run for the board on April 6, that's OK (although your name may not be on the ballot), since all board candidates will be asked to present themselves at the April 6 election in a very short (one- to two-minute) speech. If you have not submitted a candidate's statement to the newsletter, you are required to be present at the election itself to run for the board.

If you'd like to learn more about the requirements (and benefits) of serving on the WAHA board, please contact WAHA President John Patterson, at president@westadamsheritage.org. ●

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WAHA's 30th Anniversary

THE LIST

30 Preservation Tips

by Reggie Jones

In honor of WAHA's 30th anniversary we are presenting a series of lists, each with 30 entries. This month, we focus on restoration ideas that respect your historic house. Whether you are a DIY Do-It-Yourselfer, or you hire out most tasks for the restoration of your home, remember that you are the steward of its history and period character. Do honor the intrinsic nature of your house — through your efforts, its time and place in history can be brought back to life. One of the most important caveats in historic preservation is the restorers' equivalent of physicians' do no harm: **Make no changes that are irreversible.** Paint color can be changed. The loss of original materials (what preservation pros call "historic fabric") is not reversible. So, if you remove old doors or other architectural house parts, carefully store them (whether you change your mind later, or the next owner wants them back) — don't send them to the landfill! And don't forget, West Adams is home to many (MANY) experienced house restorers — reach out to your neighbors, and to WAHA, if you have questions. Here are an additional 30 Preservation Tips:



1). Always observe the Golden Rule of Preservation: Maintain rather than repair, repair rather than replace, preserve rather than restore, and restore rather than reconstruct. Retain original materials; replacement is the last resort.

2). Locate and consult with experts specializing in preservation and/or your home's style to provide advice, guidance and work on repair, maintenance or improvement projects. Be sure your contractor has experience working on historic properties — and check those references.

3). Never sandblast your home's exterior. Ever. Never begin work on a property without obtaining the required permits and, if applicable, review by the appropriate board. Ever.

4). Do a complete check and photo document all structural damage to the property that you can find — foundation, load bearing walls, and roof. Prepare a full set of "Before" photos of your house before starting work — have fun down the road comparing "Before and After" photographs.



5). Bolt your home to your foundation.

6). Use natural ventilation for drying out any interior spaces that have sustained water damage. Using heaters risk causing damage to your home's features in the space.

7). Document with photographs all of the significant architectural details and features. Do this all the time, because you will notice new things all the time. Do this right now — you've got a phone handy, don't you?

8). Don't totally throw out the hierarchy of public and private spaces. Open plans are trendy today, but may not be in keeping

with the historic style of your house. Before making interior changes, evaluate what may be character-defining interior features, and ensure your design incorporates those features. In 10 years (remember Formica and avocado-colored kitchens?) you'll be glad you did.

9). Pay very close attention to period moldings, mantels and floor coverings as well as small intricate items such as latches, pulls and knobs — these can matter to the home's architectural style.

10). Look for old paint lines, shadows of moldings, or differences in the age of the wood to detect what may be the original floor plan of your home.

11). Make your own family's history a part of the house. Take family photos in front of the house, by the fireplace, in the corner that takes in the bay window. The babies, birthdays, graduations, parties and marriages that are documented will bring history to the present, and for future owners who get to see some of them, the photos will show them how much life the house saw in the past.

Photos by Jim Childs



12). Walk through and observe your neighborhood. Your house is probably similar to others on the same street as homes built around the same time and they (the houses and/or your neighbors) can give you clues as to how to finish your preservation project.

13). Conduct historical research on your home, your neighborhood and your city. This will entertain and inform you about how your home and neighborhood fits into the history of your city.

14). Determine whether your project is a preservation, restoration, rehabilitation or renovation and wherever possible retain original materials, and, if necessary, and replace in kind.

15). Small changes such as changing to a period appropriate front door (unless you are fortunate enough to have the original front door) can have a huge impact.

16). Prioritize your projects — a leaky roof needs to be completed first before renovating the kitchen.

17). Match rooflines and roof pitches when you add on to a historically significant house. An addition should not overwhelm the mass of the historic property.

18). Replicate documented original exterior details (for example, based on historic photographs) that enhance your old home's curb appeal.

19). Search through your home for original house parts that may be hiding. Look in the basement, the crawl space, the attic, the garage, even inside the staircase newel post. And, if for some reason you must remove hardware, don't ever pitch it — label where it was, and what year you removed it, and put it somewhere (see above) — it can be part of your time capsule for the house.

20). Get involved in your local block club, neighborhood association and/or neighborhood council. Be an Ambassador for preservation — and possibly meet neighbors who can tell you the history of your own home.

21). Watch a minimum of five episodes of *"Renovation Realities"* on the DIY network before attempting any major do-it-yourself renovations or projects. For laughs (and a good cry), have fun watching *"Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House"* and *"The Money Pit."*

22). Make sure your landscaping is consistent with the period and enhances rather than hides architecturally significant features of your home; it is possible to design a drought tolerant period garden.

23). Research preservation incentives such as the State Historic Building Code or the Mills Act.

24). Remove paint from all hardware, including registers, hinges, and even downspouts.

25). Focus on period lighting fixtures even if you need to use reproductions; minimize the use of canned lighting for any home older than mid-century modern.

26). Use the appropriate color palette for exterior and interior painting. Research your home's original colors by scraping, and then use paints that are specifically designed as historic colors (Sherwin-Williams and Benjamin Moore have excellent choices.)

27). Scour your local antique flea markets for period parts, hardware and artwork for your home. (Some ideas include Rose Bowl Flea Market, Long Beach Flea Market and Pasadena City College.)

28). Take a stroll through Liz's Antique Hardware on La Brea just so you know what is possible to find when you need to restore a feature or item. Other places to check out: Olde Good Things, Gayle's Pasadena Architectural Salvage.

29). Join preservation organizations such as WAHA, the California Preservation Foundation, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation (the Trust will provide you with a subscription to their *Preservation Magazine*.)

30). Take the time to talk with the previous owner of the home to understand their history at the home and if they have any historical documentation (photos, plans & blueprints, permits) they would provide to you or allow you to obtain copies of. If the most recent owner had not done so, research the chain of owners of your house — if you can identify early owners and their descendants, it is possible you may be able to reach them and find original or early photographs of your home in its pristine condition. (Also see above item No. 11 and start taking your own photos!) ●



Community Matters

Island of Lights *continued from page 1*

It is true that the task of historic preservation coupled with commercial revitalization can be a lengthy and arduous journey. University Park's longtime commercial owners and tenants have, over the decades, revitalized the immediate area around the Triangle themselves. The rehabilitation of several of the historic buildings, now known as Victorian Village, was completed due to the commitment of the owner Anne Merelie Murrell. Pete Zinelis redesigned his simple Pete's Burgers into a family dining experience with a Victorian theme.

The conversion of a sweatshop warehouse into the 24th Street Theater led by Jay McAdams has enabled neighbors and their children to experience live theater first-hand in their own neighborhood. Director Sara Velas and the Velaslavasay Panorama group, through a grant from the Cultural Affairs Department, succeeded in the neon-relighting of their historic Union Theater movie marquee.

Today there is also a new energy around the Triangle. Victorian Village's successful wine-bar, "Bacaro LA," founded by the Kronfli brothers, and their spin-off, the "Nature's Brew" coffee house (which now offers Thursday evening open mic sessions), will soon be joined by a new Japanese restaurant, "Misoya."

But this new enthusiasm also raises questions. Why is the Hoover-Union Triangle, a gateway to University Park and USC, such an ill-kept, inhospitable, wasted opportunity?

Reenter myself as Chair of A.D.H.O.C., the Adams Dockweiler Heritage Organizing Committee. I serve as one keeper of the neighborhood's communal memory, with a duty to both move forward and acknowledge the community's history. The Island of Lights project came into being after a fortuitous 1993 TV broadcast by the late Huell Howser documenting a public art installation called "VERMONICA," created by the internationally renowned artist Sheila Klein (www.sheilaklein.com). This led to a meeting with the community and Klein's eventual retention as the designer for the Island of Lights project, facilitated in part by a grant from WAHA.

Klein's installation in Hollywood of some of the City's extraordinary abundance of historic light-standards on a site devastated by the 1992 L.A. Riots appeared to be a solution to exactly what University Park itself needed: a public use for the public blight that had become the Hoover-Union Triangle; a chance to reclaim the community's 18 usurped historic "UM-1906" light-standards lost from the junction of Adams and Figueroa; to gain respect, through an artistic voice in a public forum, for the University Park story; to work together in a tribunal collaboration of entities from public agencies, the private sector, and the neighboring community to achieve a positive resolution; and to physically enhance the northern gateway to University Park with a welcoming beacon, an Island of Lights.

In 1990 CALTRANS was in the process of developing a project for the High Occupancy Vehicle ("HOV") double-decking of a section of the Harbor Freeway with a planned terminus at 23rd Street. Strong community opposition to that proposal resulted in a change that moved the terminus to Adams Boulevard. The project also required the widening of Figueroa Street to facilitate adequate traffic flow during the construction phase. The community, in response to removal of the historic UM-1906 streetlight standards for the widening, sought additional mitigations through the CEQA process. CALTRANS, in issuing a supplementary EIR, agreed with the community and eventually the City was forced to install replacement replica light standards in 1999, but that's another story for another issue.

However, back in 1991, the community was simply confronted by the continuing bureaucratic abuse. Our historic lighting would be removed and utilized simply as replacement parts for other historic streetlights in downtown. University Park during this period was a CRA/LA Project Area: Adams-Normandie 4321. The local stakeholders who made up the required Project Area Committee were well schooled in administrative process and rallied to resolve the mistreatment.

For a minute, we thought we had reached a consensus solution: we would get to keep 18 of those historic streetlights, and they would be incorporated into the Island of Lights public art project. But the 1990s were filled with many bad times for the larger Los Angeles community: the Northridge earthquake, the Rodney King decision and resulting riots, a recession, and the energy crisis, among other pressing challenges. The decision makers had more important issues than ours, and Island of Lights was placed on the back burner.

In 2000, with the conversion of our neighborhood from a Redevelopment Project Area to the University Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, and with a then-new City Councilman, Ed Reyes, at the helm, a second attempt for approval was undertaken. The artist Sheila Klein had relocated to Seattle, Washington but, when reached, was still on-board. However, once again events intervened. This time it was 9/11, and then eventually the 2008 recession, the L.A. River project, and Taylor Yards that would command priority from elected officials.

Maybe this third time will be the charm. Sheila Klein has again been found — this time in Argentina — and is still a willing performer. The re-surfaced Project has already been embraced by community members, organizations, and again by the University Park HPOZ Board. It will be scheduled for public hearings before NANDC (The North Area Neighborhood Development Council Neighborhood Council) late in February and in early March for additional community comment.



Community Workshop on Three Citywide Land Use Initiatives

Saturday, March 22, 9 a.m. - Noon

The Los Angeles Department of City Planning has three citywide initiatives on the table, and staff wants your input. In March and April they will hold Community Planning Forums to address the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, re:code LA, and Mobility Plan 2035.

First, the Draft **Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles** is now available for public review and public comment. The 90-day public comment period began February 13.

California State Law requires cities to have a General Plan, a policy document that defines how the city should use and manage its physical and economic resources over time. There are seven mandatory (and minimum) General Plan Elements: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety.

The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles is a new initiative that brings a new emphasis on health and wellness into the Los Angeles General Plan. It addresses the intersections between community health and all other aspects of planning for greater social equity. And it calls for both greater civic engagement and city responsiveness to the input of stakeholders in Los Angeles (www.healthyplan.la). This is an opportunity to give feedback on an important policy document and send a message that citizens are listening!

You can make comments in person at the upcoming Community Planning Forum or submit them in writing (including a name, telephone number, and contact information) by May 13, 2014 at 5 p.m. to:

Elizabeth Carvajal, Citywide Section - Department of City Planning
200 N. Spring Street, Room 667 Los Angeles, CA 90012
Fax: (213) 978-1477 E-Mail: elizabeth.carvajal@lacity.org

Second, the Department is embarking on an important project to improve the L.A. city zoning code with **re:code LA** (www.recode.la). The goal is to revise a document that has grown from 84 pages to over 600 since it was first written in 1946, to make a new 21st century code that's appropriate for a 21st century Los Angeles. If you are interested in land use in the city of Los Angeles (and most of us at WAHA are), be sure to find out more about this initiative.

Third, but not least, is the **Mobility Plan 2035** (www.la2b.org). This is a cooperative effort of the Departments of City Planning and Transportation to "build a road map to the future." This includes everything from walkability to public transportation to greening streets to parklets. There are many ways to be involved in this process, as you can imagine. Since 2011, the project has yielded a Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report based on public input. Now is the time to find out more about these documents and provide feedback at the upcoming public hearing.

Check out the websites for more information on these initiatives and bring your comments to the Community Planning Forums.

The forum nearest to West Adams will be held on Saturday morning, March 22 (YES, a very busy day – you will need to pick your passion in terms of what event to participate in! See Stepping Out, pages 6-7) at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, 3916 S. Western Ave. (Expo Park West) from 9 a.m. to noon. ●

A version of this article appeared at www.EmpowerLA.org, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's website.

Island of Lights *continued from prior page*

The Island of Lights' original design called for using the 18 historic street lights, the UM-1906 light poles, which would be arranged atop a stepped platform representing a compass. The symbolism of the salvaged streetlights is two-fold: first, they will literally form a beacon light of welcome to those entering University Park, and second, they will stand as a reminder of University Park's historic contribution to the development of Los Angeles. The raised star/sun/compass platform echoes the many directions immigrants have arrived from to make their homes here. The proposed tile work forming the base of the artwork will reflect the Spanish ancestry of the Pueblo's earlier settlers and their work creating the foundation of the future City.

The Hoover-Union Triangle itself was formed by the intersection of the original Spanish Pueblo de Los Angeles street-grid crossing at a diagonal with the later Anglo-surveyed street-grid of 1853. Hoover was the south-west edge of the Pueblo and its later Donation Lots, which formed the basis of the new American city in 1850. Seventy years later, the intersection of Hoover and Union was a thriving neighborhood commercial cluster, but the 1920s commercial buildings on this site were demolished in the early 1970s to facilitate the widening of Hoover Street. This widening was in part a misguided attempt to create a grand boulevard entrance into USC. The result, instead, was a blighted pocket non-park.

Some of the former grandeur of this location can still be recaptured by the Island of Lights project. With everyone's support we may be able to illuminate the gateway to University Park with revitalized public space and a public art project that looks both to our past and to our future. ●



Artist Sheila Klein's "Vermonica" installation also used vintage streetlights

Make A Difference in Your Community: Participate in Upcoming Neighborhood Council Elections in West Adams

Are you tired of complaining about how things just don't meet your expectations in your neighborhood? Then do something about it. Consider running for a seat on one of West Adams' local neighborhood councils — and certainly plan to vote in their respective elections!

Neighborhood council elections are slated in April and May for all of the neighborhood councils in and adjacent to the Historic West Adams District:

Pico-Union NC ("PUNC," which includes Alvarado Terrace, Byzantine-Latino Quarter and Westmoreland Place, along with Angelus Rosedale Cemetery within its boundaries) and Olympic Park NC ("OPNC," which includes Country Club Park and Oxford Square) stakeholders will go to the polls to vote on Thursday, April 3.

North Area Neighborhood Development Council NC ("NANDC," which includes Adams-Normandie, Charles Victor Hall Tract, University Park, North University Park, West Adams Heights, and Expo Park/Expo Park West); United Neighborhoods NC ("UNNC," includes Harvard Heights, Angelus Vista, Western Heights, Kinney Heights, Arlington Heights, West Adams Avenues and Jefferson Park); and Mid-City NC ("MINC," includes Lafayette Square, Victoria Park and Wellington Square, and goes west to south of Venice all the way to La Cienega) all go to the polls on Saturday, May 10.

You still have time to sign up as a candidate for NANDC, UNNC and/or MINC (but you normally may not serve on more than one NC), with their respective filing periods ending Wednesday, March 26.

Neighborhood Council Board Members Go to City Meetings and Hearings So You Don't Have To

WHO is elected to the West Adams area neighborhood councils is important to HOW short- and long-term issues, including historic preservation and especially land use, that affect you in your neighborhood are resolved. Neighborhood Council (NC) board members go to numerous meetings in City Hall — so you don't always have to (but certainly we encourage you to attend board and committee meetings to voice your concerns!)

Neighborhood councils are an official bridge between city government and local neighbors, and your neighborhood council representatives speak on your behalf on a wide variety of local issues, ranging from a proposed cell phone tower or alcohol sales on your corner, or a pothole in your street, to such citywide issues as the sign ordinance, the citywide bicycle and mobility plans, the new murals ordinance, tree plantings and parklets, light rail transit (such as the Crenshaw Light Rail line, now in the planning stages), and the Community Care Facilities Ordinance (redefining boarding house uses and regulating such uses as sober living and other group housing, now pending in City Council).

In West Adams, NC representatives review pending Historic Cultural Monument applications, advocate for HPOZs, and are currently evaluating the massive proposed updates to the West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Community Plan and the South Los Angeles Community Plan. And, of course, your neighborhood council representatives are lending a strong voice to the issue du jour, oil drilling in West Adams (see page 2).

So, you need to vote.

Mark Your Stake in Your Community: Vote

Neighborhood council participants are called "stakeholders," and automatically include people who live, work, do business, and/or own real property within a specific neighborhood council's geographic boundaries. For everyone else (those who attend school, worship or are otherwise connected to a community), there is a category called "Community Interest Stakeholder."

This title is new. After some controversy in the 2012 elections when so-called "Starbucks Stakeholders" (people with receipts for a cup of joe) voted in the Echo Park NC elections, the Los Angeles City Council in December changed the citywide definition of a stakeholder to make sure that only people with a true relationship to a community may vote at elections or serve on a neighborhood council board. It does appear as if West Adams Heritage members and its regular volunteers continue to be legit stakeholders, based on the newly adopted language: "Neighborhood council membership shall be open to... those who declare a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder, defined as a person who affirms a substantial and ongoing participation within the neighborhood council's boundaries and who may be in a community organization such as, but not limited to, educational, non-profit and/or religious organizations."

Each neighborhood council has, within this definition, by-laws that specifically define "Community Stakeholders." In addition, for voting, UNNC, PUNC, and OPNC are self-affirming; NANDC requires written self-affirmation; while MINC requires documentation, so do remember to bring your WAHA membership card, newsletter with address label, volunteer nametag/badge, or some other means to demonstrate your participation with West Adams Heritage.

In particular, elections in the UNNC (United Neighborhoods of the Historic Arlington Heights, West Adams and Jefferson Park Communities Neighborhood Council) usually have many contested seats. There are six regional areas, each of which has an open slot, and five at-large Community Stakeholder positions up for election. As with each of the West Adams area

neighborhood councils, you must live in a regional area to vote for a regional candidate, but any Community Stakeholder may vote in the at-large election.

There are two other neighborhood councils that cover the majority of Historic West Adams (with several others lapping the edges). Mid-City Neighborhood Council (MINC) basically starts at Crenshaw between Pico and the 10 Freeway, and goes west well beyond the Historic West Adams District; it does include the historic neighborhoods of Victoria Park, Lafayette Square and Wellington Square

(where WAHA's Holiday Tour was held in 2012). NANDC (Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council) boundaries start at the 10 Freeway on the north

Neighborhood Council Election Dates and Locations:
 MINC: Saturday, May 10, New Los Angeles Charter School, 1919 S. Burnside Avenue, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 NANDC: Saturday, May 10, Loren Miller Park, 2717 Halldale Ave., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 OPNC: Thursday, April 3, 12:30-6:30 p.m., Queen Anne Recreation Center, 1240 West Blvd. (bet. Pico and Olympic)
 PUNC: Thursday, April 3, 4-8 p.m., Kolping House Auditorium, 1225 South Union Ave.
 UNNC: Saturday, May 10, Council District 10 Field Office, 1819 S. Western Ave., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

and run generally between Figueroa and Western, south to Martin Luther King Boulevard. In the 2012 citywide election cycle, NANDC did not have enough candidates filing to conduct an election, and initially afterwards had difficulty reaching quorum to conduct business. You have the ability to help prevent this from happening again!

How to Vote

You do not have to be a registered voter to vote in neighborhood council elections.

Each of the NCs has its own minimum age for voters (for example, PUNC is age 16, while UNNC is 14). If you live, work, own real property, go to school, worship, or participate in a non-profit organization with a stake in the community (again, such as West Adams Heritage Association), you may vote in this election.

Disabled voters may request curbside voting through the Elections Hotline. Any other questions? Call the City's Elections Hotline 818-293-8683 (818-293-VOTE). ●



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 and friend us on FACEBOOK
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Our Thanks to the Smyrna SDA Church
 for the use of their parking lot

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY 9 AM TO 1 PM

Crenshaw Boulevard Streetscape Plan Community Workshop

Tuesday, March 4 6 – 8 p.m.

DWP Community Room, 4030 Crenshaw Blvd. (Leimert Park)

You are invited to a workshop to help refine the choices for street trees and street furniture for Crenshaw Boulevard.

The City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning is developing a Streetscape Plan for Crenshaw Boulevard from the 10 Freeway south to 79th Street, the City's boundary. The purpose of the Streetscape Plan is to provide a blueprint for future streetscape enhancements that will improve the quality of the street and reinforce Crenshaw's unique character.

A draft of the Crenshaw Boulevard Streetscape Plan has been developed with community input and is currently available for review at the project's website: www.latnp.org. The Streetscape Plan provides a blueprint for future streetscape enhancements that will make the corridor more pedestrian friendly and connect five future Crenshaw/LAX Light Rail Line stations. A draft Plan is available for public review.

Please join department staff for a workshop to discuss preferences for streetscape elements, including street trees and street furniture. Limited on-site parking. Street parking available.

For more information, contact David Olivo at 213-978-1205 (David.Olivo@lacity.org) or Lakisha Hull at 213-978-1319 (Lakisha.Hull@lacity.org). ●

We support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and seek to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques.



2263 S. Harvard Boulevard
 Historic West Adams
 Los Angeles California 90018
 323-735-WAHA (323-735-9242)
 www.WestAdamsHeritage.org

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Membership Application

Become a member (or renew)!

Annual Membership

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership classification (check one)

- ___ Individual/Household \$ 50.00
- ___ Senior/Student \$ 25.00
- ___ Preservation Circle \$ 100.00
- ___ Business/Corporate \$ 200.00
- ___ Heritage Circle \$ 250.00
- ___ Patron Circle \$ 500.00
- ___ Benefactor \$1,000.00

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FOR DISPLAY ADS

This Newsletter is published 10 times a year

Half Page: \$100 monthly; \$900 annually

1/4 Page (4½ x 4½): \$60 monthly; \$540 annually

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The deadline for ad content is the 1st of the prior month.

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Sale on picture frames! 50% off 'til they're gone. Ted Gibson Picture Frames, Inc. (Contact: Richard Gibson) 4271 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles, 213-382-9195

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Looking for a few high school musicians, intermediate or advanced skill level for a chamber group. Can be winds, strings or piano. With a small repertoire, can play for events, parties, busking, and in Junior Chamber Music organization next winter. Call Elizabeth at 818-723-0617.

Free: Epidendrum orchids. Easy to grow, sun loving plants, drought tolerant once established, and profuse bloomers. Call Mitzi at 323-734-9980

Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservation-minded readers. Contact lauramink@aol.com, NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.

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WAHA's 2014 Calendar for History Buffs and Preservation Advocates

MARCH

- ✓ Mardi Gras Party
*Saturday, March 8 (*NEW DATE!)*
- ✓ A Gathering of West Adams HPOZs
Saturday, March 15
- ✓ Secret City's Eat Out in West Adams/South L.A. tour
Saturday, March 22

APRIL

- ✓ WAHA Annual Meeting and Elections
Sunday, April 6
- ✓ L.A. Times Festival of Books at USC
Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13
- ✓ L.A. Heritage Day
Sunday, April 27

MAY

- ✓ Neighborhood Council Elections
Saturday, May 10
- ✓ WAHA's Annual Preservation Brunch
Sunday, May 18
- ✓ Memorial Day Weekend Remembrance at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery — *Sunday, May 25*

JUNE

- ✓ WAHA's Annual Spring Historic Places Tour
Saturday, June 7

JULY

- ✓ WAHA's 4th of July Picnic
Friday, July 4

SEPTEMBER

- ✓ Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery
Saturday, September 27

DECEMBER

- ✓ Holiday Historic Homes Tour & Progressive Dinner
Saturday and Sunday, December 6-7

Calendar ✓

Upcoming Events

MARCH

A Gathering of West Adams
HPOZs — WAHA sponsors a
mini-conference

Saturday, March 15
(see story, page 3)

Secret City Tours Dines in West
Adams and South L.A.

Saturday, March 22
(see story, page 6)

APRIL

WAHA Annual Membership
Meeting & Board Elections —

Sunday, April 6

4-7 p.m.

1703 Virginia Rd.

(see story, page 1)

Rain Delay for WAHA's Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras in West Adams

Saturday, March 8

4 - 7 p.m.

2708 Kenwood Avenue 90007
(1 blk SE of Normandie & Adams)

With long-overdue rain predicted to coincide with our scheduled event, we will be delaying the Mardi Gras festivities until Saturday, March 8, to ensure that the precipitation doesn't dampen our celebration.

To add that extra "spice" to this first WAHA potluck of 2014, we're having a Cajun Cookoff!

The rain delay gives all of us a little more time to prepare our favorite gumbo recipe, or other Creole specialty to share and impress our friends. Be sure to join us for this very special afternoon.



Laissez les bons temps rouler!

WAHA....Creating Our Future by Preserving Our Past

The WAHA Matters Newsletter is a publication of the West Adams Heritage Association. Members and supporters of WAHA are invited to submit articles to the Newsletter. Letters will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 2014. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.

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