



LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY NEWS



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In 2008, the Black Cat in Silver Lake was designated as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument for its early and significant role in the LGBTQ civil rights movement. A police raid on December 31, 1966 led to a peaceful protest in February 1967. This demonstration of 300-600 individuals was one of the earliest such documented events in LGBTQ history, predating New York's famed Stonewall rebellion by two and a half years. Photo by Laura Dominguez/L.A. Conservancy.

Telling the LGBTQ/L.A. Story

by Arielle N'Diaye

With the Supreme Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage across the United States, 2015 marks a major milestone in equal rights and protections for the country's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (or questioning) citizens. LGBTQ rights have accumulated rapidly in the U.S. in recent years. At this point, it is important to take a step back and begin to recognize the places where this history took place and continue to tell the story of Greater Los Angeles' LGBTQ heritage.

The Los Angeles area has long been at the forefront of creating and shaping a collective yet diverse LGBTQ identity, and it has played an important role in bringing LGBTQ experiences into the public consciousness. Nonetheless, our local contributions to LGBTQ history are often overshadowed by the legacies of New York's Stonewall rebellion and San Francisco's reputation as America's "Gay City."

In recognition of the broad social and cultural contributions of Los Angeles' diverse LGBTQ communities, the Conservancy is pleased to announce the debut of our latest Curating the City microsite, LGBTQ Historic Places in L.A. Learn more about our newest microsite at right, and visit online at laconservancy.org/lgbtq.

The Conservancy's project comes on the heels of the City of Los Angeles' LGBT Historic Context Statement, completed as part of SurveyLA, its multi-year initiative to identify and record the city's historic resources. The context statement, which covers the period from about 1850 to 1980, marks a turning point in efforts to recognize and protect places associated with the LGBTQ community. While Los Angeles has made strides in this area, neighboring cities with significant historical connections to the LGBTQ community, such as West Hollywood and Long Beach, have yet to catch up.

Please see LGBTQ on page 6

Always More to Learn at *laconservancy.org*

by Conservancy staff

The Conservancy regularly adds new content to our website at laconservancy.org to help you explore and enjoy Greater Los Angeles' built history. We recently launched both a new microsite and more than forty biographies of architects who have made significant contributions to the L.A. region.

Curating the City: LGBTQ Historic Places in L.A.

The newest installment in our Curating the City microsite series, LGBTQ Historic Places in L.A., recognizes the unique stories and contributions of Los Angeles' diverse and constantly evolving LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning and/or queer) communities.

Did you know that the world's first gay pride parade took place in Hollywood? Or that L.A. is the site of the world's first LGBTQ synagogue, the country's longest-running gay publication, and much more? Curating the City: LGBTQ Historic Places in L.A. represents the first major step in our broad efforts to tell these stories and to identify, promote, and preserve these historic places.

Featuring in-depth profiles of more than thirty significant locations across L.A. County, the microsite describes the diverse history of LGBTQ communities in the region, as well as the increasing threat to the places that help tell the stories of these communities. Our searchable map will help you explore

Please see WEBSITE on page 6

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The Los Angeles Conservancy is a nonprofit membership organization that works through education and advocacy to recognize, preserve, and revitalize the historic architectural and cultural resources of Los Angeles County.

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Major funding for the Los Angeles Conservancy's programs is provided by the LaFetra Foundation.

Preservation Advocacy Fund: Saving Community Character

At the Conservancy, one of the biggest issues we face is preserving community character. We work to save the homes, theatres, restaurants, public spaces, and other spaces that define our historic neighborhoods.

This year, we advocated successfully to have the 1957 Norms La Cienega landmarked. This Google restaurant has been an icon of Los Angeles for over half a century, and its landmark designation is a huge win. However, the preservation of Norms is still not assured, and we are working to keep this neighborhood gem intact.

We also continue to fight the overdevelopment trend in residential neighborhoods, including both single-family homes and multi-family residences (see page 3).

Thanks to the support of members like you, we can help ensure that historic neighborhoods keep the qualities that make them special. Membership dues provide about one-third of our annual revenue. Another third comes from philanthropic support beyond membership dues, including donations to the Preservation Advocacy Fund.

Please strengthen our voice for preservation in L.A. County by giving a gift of any amount by **December 31**. You'll enjoy tax benefits and make a real difference in preserving the historic places that matter to you. Donate online at laconservancy.org/paf. Thank you!

Welcome Sarah Lann, Director of Education

Please join us in welcoming the Conservancy's new director of education, Sarah Lann. Sarah will oversee the Conservancy's educational outreach and volunteer programs, including our Last Remaining Seats film series, walking tours, and special tours.

A native of Portland, Oregon, Sarah holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from Ithaca College and a master's degree from Leeds University in the UK. She has over ten years of experience managing programs in a nonprofit setting. Most recently, Sarah worked as the school manager for The Groundlings Theatre and School. She previously served as the in-residence programs manager for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon.

With her theatre background, it is not surprising that Sarah is passionate about storytelling, and that passion brought her to the Conservancy. As she says, "Preservation is exciting to me because buildings help tell stories about the past and bring history to life."



Karol Lautner Peterson (1938 – 2015)

Karol Lautner Peterson, president of the John Lautner Foundation and a staunch advocate for her father's architectural legacy, passed away in August.

Karol led the creation of the John Lautner Foundation in 1996, two years after her father's passing. Recognizing the need to protect built examples of the master modernist's work, she was instrumental in creating a preservation fund for the Foundation and increasing its preservation advocacy efforts over the years.

In 2011, the Conservancy worked with Karol and other Foundation leaders to convene an expert panel discussion on preserving Lautner's work. Karol partnered with faculty and students at Cal Poly Pomona to nominate a number of Lautner buildings to the National Register of Historic Places, as well as create a Multiple Property Documentation Form to facilitate future nominations. In her tireless efforts to maintain her father's legacy, Karol built a rich legacy of her own as a steward, advocate, and friend.



Preservation Issues

by Laura Dominguez, Adrian Scott Fine, Manuel A. Huerta, and Marcello Vavala

For more information about these and other preservation issues, please visit laconservancy.org/important-issues.

Historic Multi-Family Residences at Risk

Similar to the mansionization of single-family residential neighborhoods, we are now starting to see historic multi-family buildings targeted for redevelopment under the City of Los Angeles' Small Lot Subdivision ordinance. Local residents recently mobilized to prevent the demolition of two significant multi-family properties—both owned by the same developer.

In September, the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission voted unanimously to recommend designation of the Mendel and Mabel Meyer Courtyard Apartments as a Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM).

Located at 118-126 ½ North Flores Street, the Meyer Courtyard Apartments were built between 1936 and 1939. The Minimal Traditional-style buildings are significant for their association with the firm of Meyer and Holler, one of the most prolific builders in early-twentieth-century Los Angeles. Though Meyer and Holler designed icons including the TCL (originally Grauman's) Chinese Theatre, this property reflects the firm's modest yet high-quality building practices during the Great Depression.

SurveyLA, Los Angeles' citywide historic resources survey, notes the building as a contributing property to the Beverly Square District. This district has been identified as eligible for historic designation at the national, state, and local levels.

Residents of the apartments nominated the property for HCM designation after the new owner revealed plans to demolish the apartments and replace them with townhouses. Eviction notices were issued in February. Only one couple remains today; all the others have left.

Just a mile from the Meyer Courtyard Apartments, a bungalow court at 750-756 ½ North Edinborough Avenue is also at risk. The owner applied for a permit earlier this year

to demolish the 1923 Spanish Revival-style bungalow court.

SurveyLA identified the property as eligible for local, state, and national designation, as an excellent example of its property type and for its associations with the entertainment industry. Since learning of the threat, community members have been working toward nominating the property for HCM status.

The demolition permit was placed on hold because the owner had to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the proposed replacement project. In September, the developer withdrew the original replacement plans, negating the need for an EIR. With the EIR no longer required, the Department of Building and Safety reactivated the demolition permit.

Amid public outcry and a protest at the site, the Department of City Planning initiated an HCM nomination before demolition had begun, and the permit was frozen once more. An HCM nomination has since been prepared and will soon go before the Cultural Heritage Commission for consideration.

The Meyer Courtyard Apartments and the Edinborough Bungalow Court exemplify the growing threat to historic multi-family residences in Los Angeles—and the resulting loss of community character. This and other types of development pressure further underscore the need for neighborhood conservation tools used in other cities, such as conservation districts.



Local residents have mobilized to save a 1923 bungalow court at 750-756 ½ North Edinborough Avenue. Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy.

Horizon Hollywood Project/ Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist

As reported in these pages a year ago, a mixed-use development project in Hollywood



Former Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist in Hollywood. Photo by Larry Underhill.

calls for the demolition of the former Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist (Howard Elwell, 1959-60). The building at the northwest corner of Hollywood Boulevard and La Brea Avenue is a significant example of Modern ecclesiastical architecture, as well as a prominent local example of postwar Christian Science architecture.

In September, the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission voted unanimously to recommend the building's designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM). The vote brings the structure closer to achieving HCM status, which would require the owner to consider preservation alternatives. The City Council will cast a final vote on the nomination in the coming weeks, following a recommendation vote by the Council's Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee. The nomination was submitted by the recently formed neighborhood advocacy organization Save Residential Hollywood.

New York-based developer LeFrak Organization, which purchased the church property from the Fifth Church congregation in 2008, is partnering with Beverly Hills-based developer Kennedy Wilson on the proposed mixed-use project. Known as Horizon Hollywood, the project would include 410 apartments in three buildings ranging from six to twenty-six stories.

The Conservancy submitted comments on the project's Notice of Preparation in January 2015, pressing for the consideration of preservation alternatives that would retain and incorporate the building as part of the project. Preparation of the draft environmental impact report has been delayed pending the outcome of the landmark nomination.

SHARE YOUR LOVE OF HISTORIC LOS ANGELES AS A WALKING TOUR DOCENT

by Annie Laskey

Have you always wanted to be a Conservancy walking tour docent? Now's your chance! We are currently accepting applications for the 2016 Docent Training Class, which will start in late January 2016.

Giving effective tours combines good scholarship, entertaining presentation, and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. The cityscape constantly evolves, and each tour group is unique.

Docent training typically takes about three months to complete. It combines eight formal class dates with additional practice tour dates and independent study. Space in the class is limited to sixteen people.

To be eligible for docent training, you must be a current member of the Conservancy and have taken at least two Conservancy walking tours within the past year.

For more information, including an application and training schedule, please visit laconservancy.org/walking-tour-docents.



Docent Beth Topping leads a group on a Downtown Renaissance tour. Photo by Larry Underhill.

Special Tours for the Holidays

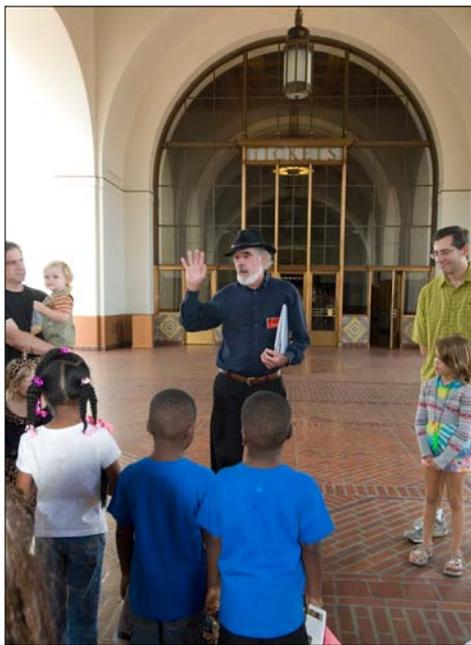
by Annie Laskey

For the Kids: Union Station for Families

Just in time for the holidays, we will once again offer our Union Station for Families walking tour. This hour-long tour tells the story of Union Station through its beautiful shapes and colors, exploring the design of the building and how it relates to Los Angeles history.

We designed this tour for young guests; we suggest it for children ages 5 and up. Please register for this tour only if you bring youth or children between the ages of 5 and 17 with you. We offer separate tours of Union Station on Saturdays designed for adults.

The Union Station for Families tour will take place on three Sundays: November 29, December 6, and December 13. It starts at 11 a.m. and lasts about an hour. Please note that the tour does not include boarding a train—but you and your family will have a ball!



Bring the whole family to our special child-friendly tours of Union Station! Photo by Larry Underhill.

For the Adults: Modern by Holiday Light

Our Modern by Moonlight tour offers a nighttime twist on our regularly scheduled Modern Skyline tour. Now we're putting a twist on that twist with Modern by Holiday Light!

Explore the history and architecture of

Holiday Tour Schedule

Union Station for Families

Sundays, November 29, December 6, & December 13

11:00 a.m.

1 hour

Modern by Holiday Light

Wednesdays, December 2 & 9

Saturdays, December 5 & 12

5:30 p.m.

2 hours

Bunker Hill's skyscrapers while they look extra festive with holiday lights and decorations.

This special tour will take place on Wednesdays, December 2 and 9, and Saturdays, December 5 and 12. Tours start at 5:30 p.m. and last about two hours.

Please note that this particular tour includes steps and hills and is not wheelchair accessible (our regular afternoon Modern Skyline tour is accessible). This tour is geared for adults and is not recommended for children under 12.

All tours are \$5 for Los Angeles Conservancy members and youth 17 and under; \$10 for the general public; reservations are required. Space is limited, so reserve now! Visit laconservancy.org/tours or call (213) 623-2489.



Gingerbread houses displayed at the Late Modern Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown L.A. Photo by Annie Laskey/L.A. Conservancy.

Fall Tour Soars from Hughes to Hercules

by Sarah Lann



Tour attendees were impressed by the enormous Cargo Building, one of the largest wooden buildings ever built. It was designed to house the construction of the H-4 Hercules plane, also known as the Spruce Goose. Photo by Stephen Russo.

Saturday, October 24: The day dawned bright and beautiful over the former Hughes Aircraft Company campus, a welcome change from the torrential rain and winds that greeted staff and guests the first time the Conservancy toured this historic site in 2011.

Hundreds of guests visited restored buildings from the 1940s and 1950s rehabbed with creative touches such as coffee bars and shared, chandelier-lit workspaces. It was clear to many that Hughes' legacy is alive and well, preserved in the buildings and grounds of this historic site.

The Hercules Campus at Playa Vista is a shining example of adaptive reuse. Its transformation by The Ratkovich Company earned a Conservancy Preservation Award in 2014. The site once housed helicopters, planes (including the infamous H-4 Hercules, or Spruce Goose), and significant innovations in aviation and aerospace under the leadership of the legendary Howard Hughes.

The site's remaining historic buildings now house a new generation of visionaries, with tenants including Google, YouTube, advertising firm 72andSunny, and Konami Digital Entertainment.

We would like to thank our gracious host and Tour Leader Sponsor, The Ratkovich Company. We also thank Tour Partners Howard Building Company and MATT

Construction, as well as Tour Sponsors ARC Engineering, Clarion Partners/i|o at Playa Vista, EPT Design, Levin & Associates Architects, Nabih Youssef Associates, Rapt Studio, rossprojectmanagement, and ZGF.

We also appreciate everyone who attended, as well as the volunteers and staff who made the event possible. We were thrilled to have several volunteers from the next generation of preservationists: kids from our summer program, Adventures in Architecture, with Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA).



Volunteer Jerome Robinson shows tour guests historic images of the former Hughes Aircraft Company campus. Photo by Stephen Russo.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: DAVID THOMPSON

by Bruce Scottow

"To be honest, my primary goal in joining the Conservancy's Walking Tour Program was for my own education."

-David Thompson

David Thompson first volunteered with the Conservancy on our 2013 tour of downtown L.A.'s Arts District. He decided to be-



come a walking tour docent the next year, motivated by a lifelong love of architecture—a passion that also fuels his work as an artist focused on the history and architecture of Los Angeles and its river.

Volunteering as a docent not only advanced his knowledge of architecture, but also brought the satisfying bonus of seeing sparks of excitement from tourgoers discovering that downtown Los Angeles is bursting with art, architecture, and a fascinating social and economic history.

Now, as a two-year volunteer with the Conservancy's Adventures in Architecture youth outreach program with Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA), those sparks of excitement come from sixth- and seventh-grade students as well.

David, a New York native who has lived in Pasadena since 1989, brings a diverse background to his tours. He has worked as an editor, arms control diplomat, securities lawyer, and—as a deputy general counsel of The Walt Disney Company—a participant in negotiating theme park projects in France, Japan, Hong Kong, and China. He now devotes his time to photography and serigraphy, and has exhibited in major galleries from Los Angeles to New York.

WEBSITE

continued from page 1

both well-known and lesser-known historic sites, and we'll add more over time.

Learn more about our efforts to preserve historic LGBTQ sites in our cover story, and explore our new microsite at laconservancy.org/lgbtq. While you're there, please share any stories you have to help make the microsite an even richer resource. Thank you!



Visit our new microsite at laconservancy.org/lgbtq to discover L.A.'s rich LGBTQ history.

Architect Biographies

We also added online biographies of more than forty architects who have made significant contributions to L.A.'s built environment. These brief overviews highlight the early life, training, and major works of selected architects.

To read the biographies, visit laconservancy.org/architects. We feature a range of architects, including those who helped define the look of pre-World War II Los Angeles such as John Parkinson and the firm of Morgan, Walls, and Clements, as well as Modern masters such as R. M. Schindler and Richard Neutra, and landscape architects such as Lawrence Halprin and Garrett Eckbo. Of course, many more architects made an important mark on Los Angeles, and we will continue to add more biographies over time.

We hope you enjoy these new additions and other great content at laconservancy.org.

Special thanks to past Conservancy interns Anthony Merrill, Arielle N'Diaye, and Dinna Rivera-Pitt for their valuable contributions to both projects.

LGBTQ continued from page 1

While the City's LGBT Historic Context Statement is an important step forward, a great deal of work still lies ahead. Since the LGBT Historic Context Statement ends at 1980 and is limited to the City of Los Angeles, we also need to identify and understand historic LGBTQ places elsewhere and post-1980. These places reflect, for example, the extraordinary beginnings of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the important role the Los Angeles LGBTQ community played in bringing this issue into the national spotlight.

More than Just Nightclubs

As we have previously reported, a number of buildings with significant historical ties to the LGBTQ community are currently at risk. In West Hollywood, the owner of The Factory has proposed demolishing the industrial building for a mixed-use project, despite its early history as the Mitchell Camera production facility and, from 1975 to 1988, as the site of the iconic gay discotheque Studio One. This threat landed The Factory on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2015 list of America's Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places, in large part due to its LGBTQ history.

Hollywood's Circus Disco, established in 1975 as a safe social space for gay Latinas/os, is also slated for demolition as part of a major redevelopment planned for Santa Monica Boulevard and Las Palmas Avenue. The nightclub provided its patrons with a strong support system and served as a meeting place for political and social organizing.

The owner of Jewel's Catch One in Los Angeles' Mid-City, regarded as the first large-scale nightclub to cater to black members of the LGBTQ community, closed the club in July and announced plans to sell the building.

Taken together, these three nightclubs tell a critical story about race, gender, class, and sexuality in Los Angeles. Establishments such as Catch One and Circus Disco initially opened their doors in response to rampant discrimination experienced by lesbians and LGBTQ people of color at well-known institutions like Studio One.

These places were more than just bars; they served as vital community centers. Circus Disco brought activists from broader civil and labor rights movements together with

advocates in the LGBTQ community. The owner of Catch One also opened a neighboring residential HIV/AIDS center for homeless women and children living with the disease. Studio One, despite its exclusionary door policies, played an important role in fundraising for HIV/AIDS research and treatment.

Because none of these properties have been landmarked, they all lack formal protection from demolition or inappropriate alteration. This challenge makes proactive efforts to preserve the tangible links to this history all the more critical.

Challenging Questions

Preservation within a community as diverse and broad as this one poses a number of challenging questions. How old does something need to be in order to qualify as historically significant, and who decides? How do we tell stories through places that may be difficult to appreciate, or not fully understood? And how do we ensure that all voices and stories are heard, even when they may be at odds with one another?

What makes these efforts so dynamic is that they reach into numerous complex layers within the region's history. LGBTQ identity sits at the intersection of an individual's racial, cultural, sexual, socioeconomic, gender, and religious experiences. Our goal is to reflect the diverse nature of this community.

Our new microsite, Curating the City: LGBTQ Historic Places in L.A. (see sidebar on page 1), represents the beginning of our community dialogue. We intend for the microsite to evolve as new places and stories come to light. We invite you to explore this history, and to share your knowledge and memories, at laconservancy.org/lgbtq.

AUGUST 6 / OCTOBER 8 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Los Angeles Conservancy would like to acknowledge the generous contributions of our new Supporting members, and the new and renewing members of our Sustaining, Benefactor, and Cornerstone groups.

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS REWARDS: CHRISTY REICH

by Liz Leshin

Christy Reich, a Conservancy member since 2012, bought a pair of tickets for the Clifton's Cafeteria opening fundraiser on September 21. She never thought she'd end up winning the grand prize in the event's chance drawing: a party for twenty-five at Clifton's, valued at \$3,125.



"I am just floored and excited," she said upon hearing the news. A lifelong Angeleno, Christy had never been to Clifton's before. "I was super curious about it," she said. "I loved the idea of being able to experience (the reopening) before the general public."

She described the fundraiser as "an amazing, cool event. I loved the building. I loved that they maintained (the original) sense of whimsy. How cool for families to be able to bring their children there. What's going on on Broadway is so exciting!"

Christy has "a huge appreciation for the diverse architecture of L.A. I love that this city lets people's imaginations run wild. If you can imagine it, you can build it."

Christy upgraded her membership to a higher level when she could, "to appreciate and support the Conservancy's efforts" in preserving what is unique about her hometown. Thank you, Christy, and thanks to all of our members who make the Conservancy's work possible.

Happy Holidays!

Consider gift memberships in your holiday shopping!

Visit laconservancy.org/membership or call (213) 623-2489.

CONSERVANCY WALKING TOURS

Tours are \$5 for Conservancy members and children twelve and under; \$10 for the general public. Walk-ins accepted on Art Deco, Downtown Renaissance, Historic Downtown, and Modern Skyline. All others require reservations.

For details and reservations, visit laconservancy.org. Questions? Call the Conservancy office at (213) 623-2489.

CONSERVANCY WALKING TOURS

Angelino Heights

First Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.

Art Deco

Every Saturday, 10 a.m.

Biltmore Hotel

Every Sunday, 2 p.m.

Broadway Historic Theatre & Commercial District

Every Saturday, 10 a.m.

Downtown Renaissance

Every Saturday, 10 a.m.

Historic Downtown

Every Saturday, 10 a.m.

Modern Skyline

Every Saturday, 2 p.m.

Union Station

Every Saturday, 10 a.m.

Youth, family, and group tours by arrangement; call (213) 623-2489 for information.



Los Angeles Conservancy

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Planning your year-end giving? Donate to our Preservation Advocacy Fund. Details on page 2.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Photo by Larry Underhill.

YOUTH & FAMILY TOURS OF UNION STATION

Sundays, November 29 -
December 13

Bring the whole family to this kid-friendly version of our Union Station tour! See page 4 for details.



Photo by Doug Hill.

MODERN BY HOLIDAY LIGHT TOURS

Wednesdays and Saturdays
December 2 - 12

Explore the history and architecture of Bunker Hill's skyscrapers while they look extra festive with holiday lights and decorations! See page 4 for details.



Photo by Larry Underhill.

GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Looking for the perfect holiday gift? Share your passion for preservation by giving a gift membership to your friends or family members. Visit laconservancy.org/membership for details.