



LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY NEWS



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The amended Port Master Plan now allows a mixed-use land use for Fish Harbor, providing flexibility in reusing historic buildings like the 1946 Pan-Pacific Fisheries Cannery (shown at center). Once the most modern facility on Terminal Island, it is currently empty and awaiting a new use. Image courtesy San Pedro Bay Historical Society.

Port Master Plan: Path to Preservation Secured!

by *Adrian Scott Fine*

The elusive “win-win” and ability to find middle ground on a preservation issue does not happen often enough, but when it does, it is worth celebrating. It is also worth acknowledging that preservation requires being pragmatic and balancing many competing goals. This aptly describes the Conservancy’s nearly seven-year involvement at the Port of Los Angeles—specifically focused on Terminal Island—and the adoption on August 8 of an updated Port Master Plan by the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

“We are thrilled that the updated Master Plan provides a path to preservation for the reuse of underused and vacant historic buildings on Terminal Island,” said Linda Dishman, the Conservancy’s executive director.

While the new Master Plan does not guarantee preservation or address all of our concerns, it does provide a framework and gives historic buildings at the Port a fighting chance of being adaptively reused in the future. This distinction is important, given that as originally drafted, the Master Plan called for something much different in scope. The initial draft Master Plan that emerged in early 2013 originated from an earlier Terminal Island Land Use Plan from 2011 that included:

- a set of goals that did not provide an equal priority for the preservation and reuse of historic structures;
- land uses that hindered the reuse of historic structures, including contradictory land uses within single buildings; and
- planned road realignments that went directly through historic buildings.

Please see PORT MASTER PLAN on page 6

Mid-Century Marvelous: An Evening at the Brody House

The Conservancy is thrilled to hold our 2013 Fall Benefit on **Saturday, October 19** at the magnificent Brody House in Holmby Hills. This architectural masterpiece was designed by famed Los Angeles-based architect A. Quincy Jones with interiors by designer Billy Haines.

Completed in 1951 for Sidney and Frances Brody and spanning more than 11,000 square feet, the Brody House is an early example of Mid-Century Modernism at an extraordinary scale. A. Quincy Jones is well known for his residential projects, and the Brody House is one of his most stunning works.

The home recently underwent a sensitive restoration and still features many of Haines’s original furnishings and fixtures. Our Fall Benefit offers an extremely rare opportunity to experience this spectacular private home.

Exemplifying modern glamour and sophistication, the Brody House features floor-to-ceiling windows looking out onto 2.3 acres of property in one of the most exclusive neighborhoods in Los Angeles. Warm woods and black lacquer are featured throughout the interior, and a central atrium is sheltered by a large tree and warmed by a fireplace. The property also includes a pool, tennis court, and separate guest house. Its true brilliance can be fully experienced only in person, by exploring its breathtaking interior and exterior living spaces, both elegant and serene.

Please see FALL BENEFIT on page 5

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Los Angeles Conservancy

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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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Stewart Rupp (1940 - 2013)

Stewart Rupp, one of the Conservancy’s most active walking tour docents, passed away on July 1, 2013, just nine days shy of his seventy-third birthday. Stew was highly popular with tourgoers, and his booming voice and infectious enthusiasm brought to life the history and architecture of the city for thousands of Angelenos.

Since joining the Conservancy’s docent corps in 2006, Stew gave more than 200 tours, and he had already given twenty-seven tours so far this year. His last tour, on June 22, was for an alumni group from Occidental College, his own alma mater.

As a former teacher (thirty-five years as a music teacher for LAUSD), he had a particular rapport with kids and delighted in leading school groups. Stew’s gregarious personality and clear joy at giving tours also made him a favorite with his fellow docents, to whom he was an inspiration. He will be missed.



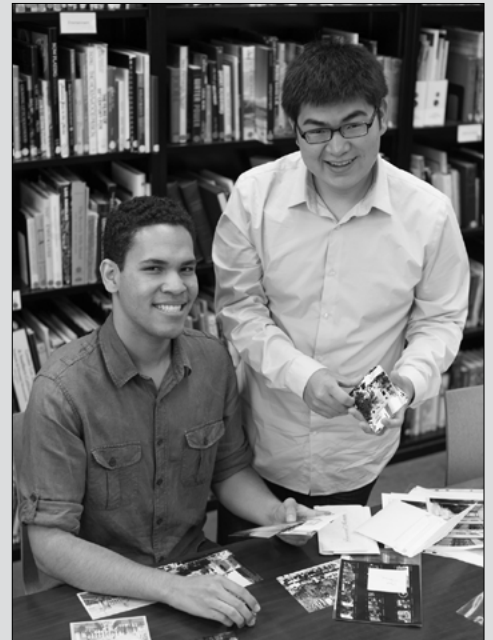
Stewart Rupp with a group from Loyola Marymount University in the Bradbury Building.

Thank You to Our Summer Interns

As the summer comes to a close, we want to give a big thank-you to our two interns from the Getty Multicultural Internship Program.

Anthony Merrill, our education intern, is transferring this fall from Pasadena City College to UC Berkeley to study art history and possibly political science. Anthony worked with us during ten of the busiest weeks of programming in Conservancy history. He was a big help in planning and advancing several programs, including the Last Remaining Seats film series, Adventures in Architecture summer youth program, and our panel presentation, Preserving Sprawl: The Suburbs Become Historic. Anthony put his graphic design and research skills to work, creating printed pieces for our events and adding content to our new website.

Our advocacy intern, **Young Choi**, helped us highlight the Conservancy’s past successes by writing a series of case studies for our new website focused on the places saved through the Conservancy’s advocacy. He assembled images for interactive slide shows to better tell these stories, and also worked on a context statement about public schools in Southern California. Young was a great help with the Landmark THIS! workshop in July and at several Last Remaining Seats screenings. In the fall, Young will be a third-year student at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo studying landscape architecture, sustainable environment, and city planning.



Interns Anthony Merrill (left) and Young Choi (right). Photo © 2013 J. Paul Getty Trust.

Preservation Issues

by Flora Chou, Adrian Scott Fine, Manuel Huerta, and Marcello Vavala

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

Union Station Master Plan

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is creating a comprehensive Master Plan for the property that houses the iconic 1939 Union Station. Metro purchased the site in 2011 and intends to transform it into an intermodal transit center to meet current and future transit needs, such as high-speed rail, while enhancing user services, creating greater connectivity with surrounding neighborhoods, and protecting the historic landmark. The Master Plan encompasses approximately thirty-eight acres, including the terminal building, outdoor patios, and railroad tracks.

The Alameda District Specific Plan approved in 1996 established development rights that now allow Metro to build up to 5.9 million square feet of new construction at the site. The Conservancy opposed the loss of historic service areas at the time and raised concerns with the scale, massing, and siting of new construction encroaching on and overwhelming the historic station. We believe that some of these issues remain relevant today and should be considered in the master planning.

Because the site is already approved for development, the Master Plan will not undergo an environmental review process. However, Metro has released a series of Draft Alternatives available on their website for public review and comment. Transit users, neighbors, and those interested in Union Station are encouraged to participate. The Conservancy submitted comments in July and will continue to follow the process. The alternatives will be presented to Metro's Board of Directors in the fall, when a preferred plan will be selected.

A New Era for ModCom

Since 1984, the Conservancy's Modern Committee (ModCom) has been a trailblazer



L.A.'s iconic Union Station. Photo by Larry Underhill.

in preserving Modern resources throughout Los Angeles County. Our passionate group of volunteers has a strong track record in Modern preservation, and we're launching a new era with creative new programs and activities.

We have recruited a group of around fifteen dedicated volunteers to work hands-on in a new Working Group. The group will meet quarterly to help inform our advocacy strategy. We're also forming an Events Committee to continue ModCom's tradition of gathering in interesting Modern places around L.A. County for fun and engaging programs.

The Working Group launched in August, and we're still forming the Events Committee. If you're interested in helping to plan and organize four annual ModCom programs, please email us at modcom@laconservancy.org.

Landmark THIS! Workshop

On July 27, the Conservancy's advocacy staff presented a Landmark THIS! workshop in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources. Previously presented by the Conservancy in 2006 and 2007, Landmark THIS! is intended to train members of the public to complete and submit local landmark nominations, specifically

for Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCM) in Los Angeles.

This year's workshop took place at HCM #700, the former Canoga Park Branch Public Library. The focus was on Modern resources, and renowned architectural historian Alan Hess launched the workshop by giving the thirty participants a brief overview of the range of Modern resources ripe for designation.

Presenters discussed criteria for landmark designation, how to complete a nomination form and write an architectural description, and how to make the case for a building's significance. Cultural Heritage Commissioners Gail Kennard and Roella Louie, along with Gerald Gubatan, Planning Deputy for Councilmember Gil Cedillo, spoke to the group about the political process related to local landmark designation. They offered tips for presenting a nomination to the Cultural Heritage Commission, gathering public support, and working with City Council representatives.

The *Landmark THIS! Guide to Local Landmark Designation* and other information from the workshop are available on the Conservancy's website, and we expect to hold more workshops soon.

Thank You to Our 2013 Last Remaining Seats Volunteers!

Alice Allen	Nigel Lo
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Rory Cunningham	Mariah Montgomery
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Deissy Flores	Chris Nichols
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Alice Garcia	Carol Randall
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Ashley Leib	Mark Wojan
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Gary Leonard	Diana Yang
Harry Liflan	Michael Zoldessy

27th Last Remaining Seats Included Classic Hits and a Modern Theatre

By Sarah Weber

Over 12,000 people attended another memorable season of Last Remaining Seats, our annual series of classic films in historic theatres. This year, we made it even easier for people to attend by opening and closing the series on Saturdays. Also, we added a new venue to the lineup—The Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion (Welton Becket and Associates, 1964).

We showcased this beautiful Modern venue during Curating the City: Modern Architecture in L.A., which we presented as part of the Getty initiative, Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in L.A. We were thrilled to work with The Music Center on this very special evening, and we greatly appreciate their hospitality and support.

We extend our deepest thanks to the many volunteers (listed at left) who helped plan and run the series, as well as our 2013 sponsors. Series Star Sponsor: the Hollywood Foreign Press Association; Series Supporting Sponsors: Steve Bing and the Walter and Holly Thomson Foundation; Series Sponsors: Cole’s with 213 Ventures, NBC Universal, and Paramount Pictures; Evening Sponsors: Cathy and Steve Needleman, The Getty Foundation, The Music Center, Linda and Jerry Bruckheimer, Clifton’s and The Edison, Warner Bros., and Hugh Hefner in memory of Mary O’Connor; Media Sponsors: Los Angeles Downtown News and Laemmle Theatres; and VIP Reception Sponsor: Bank of America/Merrill Lynch; with partial funding from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. Major funding for the Conservancy’s educational programs is provided by the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation.



LEFT: Audience members wait for the doors to open at The Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Photo by Stephen Russo.

BELOW: Organist Clark Wilson introduces the music of *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* to the audience before the silent film begins at the Orpheum Theatre. Photo by Gary Leonard.



To see more photos from our 2013 series, visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/losangelesconservancy](https://www.facebook.com/losangelesconservancy).

DOCOMOMO US Tour Day October 5, 2013

By Annie Laskey

Celebrate Modern! The Conservancy is proud to participate in the 7th Annual Docomomo US Tour Day on **Saturday, October 5**, with our 2 p.m. Modern Skyline walking tour.

Docomomo promotes the study, interpretation, and protection of the architecture, landscape, and urban design of the Modern Movement. Its annual Tour Day brings together Docomomo US chapters, partner organizations, students, architects, historians, and the general public to celebrate the Modern Movement in the US.

Join the party by taking our Modern Skyline tour! For details and reservations, visit laconservancy.org.

The long-awaited arrival of Docomomo US in Southern California is finally here with DocomomoSoCal! The new Los Angeles-based chapter of the internationally renowned organization will partner with local, regional, and statewide organizations and agencies to enhance the understanding and appreciation of Modern resources throughout Southern California – from Santa Barbara to San Diego. Join the group's Facebook page at facebook.com/DocomomoSoCal to learn more.

do.co.mo.mo_US



Westin Bonaventure Hotel. Photo by Annie Laskey/L.A. Conservancy.

Fall Benefit continued from page 1

Tickets for the Fall Benefit start at \$300 for the three-hour cocktail party; donors at higher levels will also enjoy an al fresco dinner on the grounds.

Don't miss this special opportunity to spend an evening at the Brody House! For further details and to purchase tickets to this extraordinary event, visit laconservancy.org/benefit.



The Brody House atrium. © J. Paul Getty Trust. Used with permission. Julius Shulman Photography Archive, Research Library at the Getty Research Institute (2004.R.10)

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: CHRIS BROWN

by Bruce Scottow

Our walking tour docents cite many reasons for volunteering: interests in architecture, preservation, and Los Angeles history top their lists.



Chris Brown also includes those reasons, but he adds an unlikely confession: a fear of public speaking.

Hailing from Conyngham, Pennsylvania, Chris graduated from Boston University before heading west to attend the USC School of Cinematic Arts. He remained in Los Angeles and began a career in television production. Despite engaging in countless professional interviews and conversations, Chris found it challenging to strike up conversations with strangers.

After reading about the Conservancy's walking tour program, Chris had an idea: why not become a walking tour docent and meld his passion for architecture with the pressure to overcome his fear of public speaking? It worked! The only hiccup in his journey happened during one of his first tours four years ago. After a two-hour battle trying to outvoice a downtown protest march, Chris lost his voice and had to conclude the tour.

Several years ago, Chris left the television industry to follow his interest in architectural photography. His publications include *Still Standing – A Century of Urban Train Station Design*, a photographic collection of dozens of worldwide rail terminals and stations. Closer to home, Chris loves exploring and photographing the hidden, yet still standing, architectural gems of Los Angeles.

PORT MASTER PLAN continued from page 1

By contrast, and after much hard work and collaboration, the approved Master Plan Update includes:

- equal standing for preservation among its goals;
- the identification of Fish Harbor's Japanese-American Commercial Village as a historic resource;
- the removal of road realignments originally intended to bisect historic buildings; and
- mixed-use land use designations that provide greater flexibility for adaptively reusing historic buildings.

The Port Master Plan serves as a long-range plan, intended to guide growth and development through 2030. It combines the original 1980 Port Master Plan and its subsequent amendments into an updated document that reflects recent land use planning and projects, replaces outdated language, and provides a specific land use plan.

In addition to adopting the updated Port Master Plan, the Board of Harbor Commissioners also adopted a cultural resources policy in May 2013, believed to be the first of its kind at any port in the country. This policy establishes specific proactive measures for the ongoing identification, evaluation, and maintenance of historic resources at the Port.

Story of Terminal Island

Providing a path to preservation at Terminal Island has been the Conservancy's focus from the beginning of this effort. Securing it is a great step, especially for a place with historic buildings that for many people have been largely forgotten and might not seem particularly important or even attractive. For these reasons, it is important to look back to see how far we have come and, more importantly, why the Conservancy has focused on Terminal Island's historic buildings.

Terminal Island is much different than the place it was forty or fifty years ago. Acres of cargo containers, towering cranes, and vast areas of landfill have transformed it into what many might describe as a desolate landscape. Yet if you do a little sleuthing and exploring, the story of Terminal Island begins to reveal itself—largely by the historic buildings still standing there, especially along Fish Harbor.



Southwest Marine, an identified historic district dating back to 1918, is the last remaining example of the once highly significant shipbuilding industry at the Port of Los Angeles. Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy.

These buildings represent the last vestige of the area's once-mighty shipbuilding industry, the birthplace of tuna canning in America, and a vibrant Japanese-American community that starred in one of the darkest chapters of U.S. history after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. In more recent years, Terminal Island has served as a popular filming location for *True Blood*, *24*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Entourage*, and many other productions.

The historic buildings of Terminal Island tell the stories of the people who worked in the canneries and shipyards and lived in the Japanese fishing village. These are important stories for all of Los Angeles. Fourth-generation Wilmington resident and Conservancy member Joe Mendez says it best, "[t]his was a part of our history and made us what we are today. I often visit Terminal Island to reminisce of what once was, and to give tours to family and friends who have no idea that there is a Japanese Memorial to those that live[d] on the island and worked in the canneries."

Turning Point for Preservation

Early drafts of the Port Master Plan Update raised concerns about setting in motion a dangerous policy framework for the future that did not bode well for preservation. This position, combined with a long-standing pattern of needlessly demolishing historic buildings at Terminal Island, helped land Terminal Island on the National Trust for

Historic Preservation's 2012 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

The resulting media attention from this designation got the Port's attention and led to months of meetings between the Conservancy, the National Trust, and the Port to talk through alternatives. With give-and-take on both sides, the updated Port Master Plan is now greatly improved.

However, our work at the Port and Terminal Island is not done. The Port Master Plan is only a framework and does not resolve all the issues. Now we have to find uses for the historic buildings and continue to advocate for the preservation of specifically threatened buildings, including the Canner's Steam Plant and historic Yacht Club.

Thank You!

This success would not have happened without the many people who have helped along the way over these past seven years. Thank you! We also want to thank the Port leadership, staff, and Board of Harbor Commissioners for taking our concerns seriously and collaborating with us to find a mutually beneficial solution. We want to acknowledge the Office of Councilmember Joe Buscaino for their assistance with this effort. And we want to thank the National Trust for Historic Preservation for being a partner with us. Their support was instrumental in raising awareness of Terminal Island's significance.

MAY 23 / JULY 31

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

Your membership provides the Conservancy with crucial operating funds, as well as strength in numbers to maintain a powerful voice for preservation. Thank you!

Did you know there are other ways to support the Conservancy besides membership? The Conservancy participates in two programs in which you can donate without spending additional money.

The Ralphs/Food 4 Less Community Contribution program described below left, and the Supporting Pals program described below, each allow you to donate a portion of your purchase total to the Conservancy.

For more ways to support the Conservancy, visit our website at laconservancy.org.

SUPPORTING PALS

Support the Conservancy by shopping online without spending an extra dime. Participating is simple:

1. Register at supportingpals.com.
2. Select the Los Angeles Conservancy as your charity of choice.
3. Shop at any of the merchants online at supportingpals.com
4. Up to 10% of your transaction will be donated back to the Conservancy.

Popular online retailers include Amazon, Macy's, Target, Starbucks, iTunes, and Home Depot.

Support the Conservancy by Buying Groceries!

Through the Ralphs/Food 4 Less Community Contribution program, each time you use your Ralphs or Food 4 Less Rewards Card, a portion of your total purchase is donated to the Conservancy. Supporters have contributed thousands of dollars simply by buying groceries since the Conservancy began its partnership with Ralphs/Food 4 Less six years ago.

Each year at this time, participants must renew their registration for the current term (September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2014). New participants may sign up at any time.

Registering is quick and easy:

1. Visit ralphs.com.
2. Sign in or register.
3. Under "My Account," select "Account Settings," then under "Community Rewards" select "Edit."
4. Search for the Los Angeles Conservancy by name or NPO number (80379).

If you don't have a Ralphs Rewards Card, you can get one at any Ralphs store.

If you participate through Food 4 Less, you do not need to renew. If you have a Food 4 Less Rewards Card and have not registered it, you can register online at Food4Less.com.

Thank you!



CONSERVANCY WALKING TOURS

Walking tours begin at 10 a.m. except where noted. Tours are \$5 for Conservancy members and children twelve and under; \$10 for the general public. Walk-ins are accepted on most tours. Pre-payment is required on Angelino Heights, Biltmore Hotel, and Broadway.

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

WEEKLY TOURS

Art Deco

Every Saturday

Biltmore Hotel

Every Sunday, 2 p.m.

Broadway: Historic Theatre & Commercial District

Every Saturday

Historic Downtown

Every Saturday

BI-WEEKLY AND MONTHLY TOURS

Angelino Heights

First Saturday

Downtown Renaissance: Spring & Main

Second and Fourth Saturdays

Modern Skyline

First and Third Saturdays, 2 p.m.

Union Station

Third Saturday

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



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visit laconservancy.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Photo by Annie Laskey/L.A. Conservancy

DOCOMOMO US TOUR DAY

Saturday, October 5

2:00 p.m.



Photo by L.A. Conservancy staff

FALL BENEFIT

Brody House

Saturday, October 19



Photo by Jessica Hodgdon/L.A. Conservancy

SAVE THE DATE: FALL TOUR

Downtown Arts District

Sunday, November 10

Our Modern Skyline walking tour will be part of the 7th Annual Docomomo US Tour Day, which celebrates Modern architecture nationwide. Details on page 5.

We are thrilled to hold our annual Fall Benefit at the A. Quincy Jones-designed Brody House in Holmby Hills. Details on page 1.

Our Fall Tour will take place in downtown L.A.'s Arts District on November 10, 2013. Look for more details on our website in the coming weeks.