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Community Leadership Boot Camp Participants in 2023.

Community Leadership Boot Camp: Tools for the Next Generation of Historic Preservationists

By Lindsay Mulcahy

Nicole Infante was looking for a boost.

The new president of the Garibaldina Society, L.A.'s Italian-American club dating back to 1877, was tasked with preserving the club's legacy and bringing in new audiences and generations.

"I was waking up at night in sweats," she recalled. So, she signed up for the L.A. Conservancy Community Leadership Boot Camp. There, she met advocates from across L.A. County: Rosalinda, a member of Vista Hermosa Heights Community Group and fierce advocate for environmental justice and neighborhood preservation, Nora, president of the L.A. Breakfast Club in Los Feliz, Kaitlin, president of the Santa Monica Conservancy, along with realtors, labor organizers, and more.

The strength of the Community Leadership Boot Camp lies in its participants, who bring their experiences and ideas to us and to each other. As we finished our seventh cohort this month, we've learned from nearly a hundred people about the places they love and how they work to protect them.

Their interests span from protecting legacy businesses in Little Ethiopia and Little Tokyo, to anti-displacement efforts in West Adams, to landmark designations in North Hills and El Sereno, to rehabilitating historic multi-family housing in West-lake. For Hannah Go, "getting the chance to learn about the variety of issues affecting communities across the county directly from each participant" was the most meaningful aspect of the program.

Please see BOOT CAMP on page 6

Happy Member September!

Toot toot! All aboard, members!

It's Member September here at the L.A. Conservancy which means an exclusive perk for all of our wonderful members. This September, Conservancy members can enjoy Union Station and Historic Downtown walking tours for just \$5!

Take a jaunty ride up Angels Flight, drink in the wrought iron splendor of the Bradbury Building, enjoy the sights and sounds of gorgeous Union Station, and smell the *delicious* history of Grand Central Market—all for about the same price as your favorite cuppa coffee.

For more than 40 years, the L.A. Conservancy's walking tours have been a cornerstone of our work. Through our award-winning tours, we bring people closer to the places important to the history of Los Angeles. There's definitely a reason our tours have been featured, many times over, in outlets like *Time Out, L.A. Magazine, Discover L.A.*, the *Los Angeles Times*, KCET, and so many more.

If it's been (more than) a few years since you've joined us downtown, now's your chance to reacquaint yourself with L.A.'s historic core. Our tours have updated scripts, freshly trained tour guides . . . not to mention the best fall weather in the country if we do say so ourselves. Tours depart Saturdays at 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Book your spot today at:

laconservancy.org/walking-tours.

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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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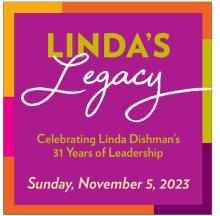
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Major funding for the Los Angeles Conservancy's programs is provided by the LaFetra Foundation and the Kenneth T, and Eileen L. Norris Foundation.

Linda's Legacy: Announcing our 2023 **Benefit Celebrating Linda Dishman's** 31 Years of Leadership!



Sunday, November 5, 2023 Vibiana Downtown Los Angeles Cocktail Reception: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. **Sponsor Dinner: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

The former Cathedral of St. Vibiana, now known simply as Vibiana, opened in 1876, and was designed by architect Ezra F. Kysor, one of Los Angeles' first practicing architects. Vibiana was one of the Conservancy's toughest battles and greatest victories. A decade-long preservation effort led by the Los Angeles Conservancy saved the deconsecrated cathe-

dral from demolition. It also helped facilitate its adaptive reuse as a lovely event space where we are gathering to honor Linda--and her leadership--in preserving Los Angeles' historic places for future generations.

This fundraising event will be held on Sunday, November 5, with a festive cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception followed by a sponsor dinner celebrating Linda's leadership in saving this and many other of our region's significant historic properties.

Our special VIP option includes a rare chance for guests to tour the historic rectory building before dinner, and a 10-second digital tribute ad. Limited spots available at VIP level. Cocktail tickets for the reception are \$500 each. Dinner sponsorships start at \$2,500 per person. Purchase tickets or sponsorships online at *laconservancy.org/* benefit2023. Questions? Contact our Director of Development, Liz Leshin: Ileshin@laconservancy.org. or (323) 270-4334.

Don't Forget: Contribute Today to the **Linda Dishman Legacy Fund!**

Help ensure Linda's legacy continues by contributing to the Linda Dishman Legacy Fund! Join us in celebrating her incredible legacy of preserving the places that matter most in L.A. County.

Contributions will fund grants offering support to such crucial preservation efforts as:

- Historic context statements
- Feasibility studies
- Historic Cultural Monument nominations
- Helping cities in L.A.County strengthen municipal policies around preservation
- Supporting non-profits working to save places of cultural significance

There is still time to donate!

Make a contribution now at **laconservancy.org/dishmanfund** or contact Director of Development Liz Leshin to learn how to make a significant or multi-year pledge: Ileshin@laconservancy.org or (323) 270-4334.

2024 is Almost Here! Start Planning Now.

If you're like us, you're probably wondering just how it's possible the holiday season is almost here! Which means 2024 is just around the corner. <u>Don't fear! We're here to help with a handy year-end planning checklist:</u>

Get your fitness goals back on track with our Saturday walking tours. Get as many as 2,000 steps in as you explore L.A. historic architectural gems and learn about L.A. history along the way.

Have out-of-town family visiting for the holidays? Show off Los Angeles with a private group tour of historic downtown. Rates start at only \$180 for 12 people!

Don't wait until December 31 to make a tax-deductible donation. Make a gift to the Conservancy's Preservation Advocacy Fund now! We need your help to preserve L.A.'s historic resources.

Getting your estate planning affairs in order? Consider joining our planned giving group, the Pillar Society, by including the Conservancy in your estate plans. Pillar Society members enjoy special benefits, too!

Take the stress out of gift-giving with Conservancy gift memberships! Starting at only \$40 per year, gift memberships are a great way to share your passion for preserving L.A.'s history. Pair it with a Walking Tour Gift Certificate for a truly special gift.

Visit <u>laconservancy.org/blog</u> for full details and may your year-end planning be merry!

A Summer Place for Preservation: *The Heritage Project!*



In August, The Heritage Project, a Conservancy program for high school students across L.A. County, launched its first cohort! It may have only lasted three weeks, but its impact will last a lifetime for the participants. Students learned about those who discovered, embodied, and preserved California's natural and cultural resources. We were honored to partner with organizations and community members across L.A. County to introduce students to significant sites, from Downtown L.A. to Long Beach to Catalina Island. The project provided an unforgettable experience for our students:

"The Heritage Project gave me a very unique and amazing hands on experience with the history and heritage of L.A. It felt like a deep case-study of the history of L.A. The Catalina trip was a lot of fun, and I really liked the day with FOLAR and Clockshop alongside the Autry museum." - Yuran, age 16

"I loved learning about the unique heritage of our community. Not only did I expand my knowledge about the past, but I learned how to connect it to the future of our community."

- Vivian, age 18

"I liked learning about the history of LA and gaining a better understanding of how the city has developed over time. My favorite part was the Catalina Island trip and learning about the Tongva and how they used that land." - Noa, age 17

We will bring The Heritage Project back in 2024! For more about this unique program, visit us at: *laconservancy.org/heritageproject*.

Good Luck, Derek Richardson

We recently said goodbye to our Development Manager, Derek Richardson. Derek joined Conservancy staff in 2022 and was a visible presence at events such as *Last Remaining Seats* and our annual Preservation Awards.

Derek has taken a position as Director of Development at the Garment Worker Center, supporting the vital work they do on labor rights in Los Angeles, and we wish him well!

Share Your "L.A. Stories" with Us

Do you have an "L.A. Story"?

Tell us about your favorite places and share personal memories about our beautiful City of Angels on our new website. Historic preservation holds the stories of people and places, so we want to hear from *you*!

Remember browsing the aisles at Tower Records? Having tea at Bullocks Wilshire? Dancing the night away at the Ambassador Hotel? Scarfing down a hot dog at Tail o' the Pup?

If so, hop onto our new website and simply fill out our online form to tell us about the historic places in L.A. County that are important to *you* and why they deserve to be heard.

All contributions are welcome! *laconservancy.org/l-a-storyhood.*



L-R: Legacy Businesses Grant Program; Candelas courtesy Los Angeles Times; Sika courtesy Sika, 88 Gifts courtesy 88 Gifts, El Aguila Bakery courtesy El Aguila Bakery.

Keeping Legacy Businesses: Stories from L.A. County's Legacy Business Grantees

For years, the L.A. Conservancy's has been a strong supporter of legacy businesses across L.A. County. In 2019, we launched an initiative to promote and raise awareness about legacy businesses in Los Angeles County. Since the pandemic, the Conservancy has fortified its initiative with the #ISupportLegacyBusiness social media campaign spotlighting longtime small businesses throughout L.A. County, reaching over 5 million people. With underwriting from Wells Fargo, the Conservancy created the Legacy Business Grant Program in 2022.

"Thanks to Wells Fargo," says Adrian Scott Fine, senior director of advocacy of the Los Angeles Conservancy, "the Conservancy's Legacy Business Grant Program is able to make funding available to longtime small businesses, so they can stay open and continue serving their communities."

Legacy businesses are a vital part of the fabric of Los Angeles neighborhoods. Familiar, authentic, and dependable, longtime momand pop shops often symbolize a community's history and resilience.

In its first year, the Conservancy granted \$5,000 each to ten small businesses in L.A. County that have operated and contributed to their community's history and/or identity for at least 20 years. More than 500 applications were submitted over the program's two rounds, citing challenges such as struggling to keep up with rising expenses, and technology upgrade needs.

Please join the Conservancy for a very special People + Places event: "Keeping Legacy Businesses," coming to you this fall! This free, virtual event will discuss the history of the legacy business grant program and our partnership with Wells Fargo, as well as premiere three short films that spotlight the stories of a few of the grantees: Candelas Guitars in Boyle Heights, Sika in Leimert Park, and Lenchita's Restaurant in Pacoima. Produced by filmmaker Matthew Oquendo, these videos offer an intimate and touching look at the stories behind some of L.A.'s most loved longtime businesses. For dates and details, visit our new website at *laconservancy.org* and watch our short films on our YouTube page at: *youtube.com/laconservancy*.

Legacy Business Grant Short Films:

Candelas Guitars:

"Time and Tradition"



Meet Tomás Delgado and his son, Tomás Delgado Jr., as they take us through the history of their familyowned Boyle Heights business and the fine art of being a luthier.

Sika:

"Building Community"



Sika Dwimfo, the honorary "Mayor of Leimert Park" chats with us about his art, the importance of community, and how Leimert Park continues to thrive as a hub for Black artists.

Lenchita's Restaurant: "Feeding the Future"



Venture into the heart of the San Fernando Valley and experience the delicious sights and sounds of Lenchita's, a family owned restaurant focused on its future while honoring its past.

Preservation Snapshots





Photos by Adrian Scott Fine and M. Rosalind Sagara/ L.A. Conservancy.

The Morris Kight Residence

Success! On August 8th, the 4th St. Morris Kight Residence became the latest Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM). The road to designation was not easy, but proves that although preservation takes patience, it's always worth the wait.

As we shared in our last newsletter, the designation effort was complicated by an amendment put forth by Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez in July to make the designation a "site of" so the building could be demolished for a new development. Thanks to the widespread outpouring of support for full designation from the L.A. Conservancy, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Stonewall Democratic Club, the LGBT Center, and more, Hernandez changed course.

Her staff sought out a preservationminded developer who has committed to rehabilitating the house and adding new affordable units on the property. This win-win preserves this historic site while supporting sensitive infill development.

The Conservancy applauds the councilmember for her work and looks forward to our continued collaboration on this preservation issue in the MacArthur Park/ Westlake community.

The house on 4th Street joins Kight's McCadden Place Residence as new L.A. Historic-Cultural Monuments. These important sites add to a small but growing number of monuments reflecting LG-BTQ+ heritage in Los Angeles.

Hung Sa Dahn / **Korean Youth Academy**

On August 16th, the Conservancy joined South Korea's Ministry of Patriot and Veterans Affairs and civic leaders to celebrate the listing of Historic-Cultural Monument No. 1274, Hung Sa Dahn/ Young Korean Academy, a Korean American heritage site of local, state, national, and international significance.

As part of the festive event, the Conservancy was recognized for our role in landmarking the historic property. Attendees also learned about the South Korean government's vision of creating an educational and cultural hub for Korean Americans and the broader community. The event culminated with a tour of the historic property and the Historic-Cultural Monument plaque unveiling.

The Hung Sa Dahn was part of an early concentration of Korean American residences, businesses, and community institutions that emerged in South Los Angeles beginning in the 1920s.

Though the historic property was identified in SurveyLA as the longtime headquarters of the Hung Sa Dahn organization (1929-1979) and for its association with the Korean independence movement (1936 to 1945), it was threatened by a redevelopment project in 2021, when community members reached out to the Conservancy for support.

In addition to shepherding the local landmark nomination with help from Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation, the Conservancy brought the property owners, the office of Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson. and community members together with the aim of finding a preservation outcome.

An important milestone was reached in January 2023 when the South Korean government finalized a deal to purchase the property from its owner, saving the historic property from demolition.

With its official listing as a Historic-Cultural Monument in March 2023, the Hung Sa Dahn becomes one of five landmarked properties in the City of Los Angeles that tell important stories about the Korean American community in Los Angeles, fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of their experience and contributions.

BOOT CAMP continued from page 1

In return, Boot Campers learn about preservation tools, deepen their organizing skills, and build a network of friends and allies. David Castro from Sherman Oaks reflected, "The training taught me a lot about the holistic process to landmarking local sites, and left me with the confidence to publicly advocate for our local history."

Our goal is that Boot Camp contributes to participants' ongoing work in their communities. For Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, Boot Camp "helps me bring a historical lens to my community work" as a research and policy analyst at Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Boot Camp alums Charles Brown and Tony Hicks of Compton 125 Historical Society are taking their efforts to the next level by pursuing a preservation ordinance in Compton. Participants can continue to be part of county-wide preservation conversations through the Conservancy's Preservation Partner Network, which brings together local preservationists to spotlight challenges, trends, and successes in the field.

Nicole and the Garibaldina Society have been hard at work over the last year, and it's paid off. Growing engagement with new audiences and a featured article in the L.A. Times celebrates the way the club both honors its roots and grows to welcome in new audiences.

At the beginning of September, Garibaldina hosted a "class reunion" where Boot Camp graduates from cohorts one through seven came together to reflect on their experiences, reunite with friends and make new ones, and celebrate their love of historic places.

The Conservancy runs a spring and fall Community Leadership Boot Camp program each year. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in Boot Camp, watch out for the next application round in February 2024. The program is free with an L.A. Conservancy membership. *laconservancy.org/bootcamp*.



Community Leadership Boot Camp Reunion in 2023.

Membership Matters: A Q&A with Jeremy Cambare & Patrick Reynolds



Jay Cambare and Patrick Reynolds recently joined the Conservancy as Cornerstone members. Grants and Development Manager Andrea Joki checked in with them on their love of L.A. history.

AJ: What compelled you to join the Conservancy?

JC/PR: Our friends George Geary and Neil Bonner, who are also members, gifted us a year-long membership a few years ago that introduced us to all that the Los Angeles Conservancy does.

AJ: You attended *Last Remaining Seats* in June. What did you enjoy most about the event?

JC/PR: Patrick has a passion for historic movie theaters and the golden age of Hollywood. This year, "Auntie Mame" was a treat, as was "Enter the Dragon." I mean...you are watching a film in the same room as someone was in 1917! There is nothing that can replace the experience of seeing classic Hollywood films on the big screen as they were originally intended to be exhibited.

AJ: What are some of your favorite historic places in Los Angeles and why?

JC/PR: We love to take the train into *beautiful* Union Station, stroll down Olvera Street, then hop on the subway to go visit Broadway, the Biltmore, then of course have dinner at Cole's before heading back [home] for the evening.

AJ: What is a preservation issue that is important to you and why?

JC/PR: We are losing so many Googie style buildings that are being demolished for "progress". This style was created in Southern California, and it is so sad that we are erasing our legacy.

AJ: What case would you make to others for joining and supporting the L.A. Conservancy?

JC/PR: We lose our sense of history when the buildings and landmarks are not preserved! It is so important to be able to see where this community/ city came from in order to know where it should be going.

Visit our blog for the full interview! laconservancy.org/blog.

JUNE 3 / AUGUST 15, 2023 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Conservancy acknowledges the generous contributions of our new and upgrading Supporting members, and the new and renewing members of our Sustaining, Benefactor, and Cornerstone groups.

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General: \$15

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\$5 tours of Historic Downtown and Union Station!

weekly walking tours

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First Saturdays 9:45 a.m.

ARTDECO

Saturdays 10:15 a.m. BILTMORE HOTEL

Sundays 1:00 p.m. HISTORIC BROADWAY

Saturdays 10:00 a.m.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

Saturdays 9:45 a.m. M O D E R N S K Y L I N E

Second Saturdays 10:30 a.m.

PAST MEETS PRESENT

Fourth Saturday 10:30 a.m.

UNION STATION

Saturdays 11:00 a.m.