







Thank you for your support in preserving L.A.'s significant historic resources.

# **2021: Historic Preservation in Perspective**

Welcome to the New Year! We could not have gotten through the last year without your support. Despite the uncertainties and challenges brought on by the pandemic, your partnership continues to help keep historic places in Los Angeles standing. *Thank you*! We're delighted to share a few highlights of how your membership made a difference in Los Angeles in 2021.

Preserving places in Los Angeles is harder than ever before, especially with limited resources, unrelenting pressure from L.A.'s hot real estate market, and the push to create more housing units increasingly calls for demolition of existing buildings. Transparency within the public process is also a challenge, as evidenced by some recent actions by the City of Los Angeles.

Last August, the Conservancy successfully filed a lawsuit forcing the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee to rescind its previous recommendation and vote against landmarking West L.A.'s historic Chili Bowl building, which were made in violation of the Brown Act. The nomination received its due process on December 7th and the public came out in full support of the nomination. Even so, PLUM voted 3/1 to once again recommend denial of the application.

Over the last year, we made strides in working with community members to help secure the future of many culturally significant historic places in Los Angeles, including the Sister Corita Kent Studio, the International Institute of Los Angeles, the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant, Watts Happening Cultural Center, and the First Baptist Church of Venice among many others.

The Conservancy continued to be a resource to individuals, community groups, local governments, and the public to ensure that historic preservation in Greater Los Angeles

<u>Please see 2021 on Page 6</u>

# **Upcoming Events**

The L.A. Conservancy is excited to announce that 2022 is going to be packed with in-person and virtual events! We're going back inside downtown's movie palaces for the return of our beloved Last Remaining Seats series, you'll be able to join us as we explore the layered history of beautiful Westwood Village, and so much more! Keep up-to-date on all of our upcoming events: *laconservancy.org/events.* In the meantime, mark your calendars for:

## Broadway Historic Theatre and Commercial District Walking Tours

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Reservations required.

One of the our most popular walking tours is back! Join us as we marvel at some of the Broadway's spectacular movie palaces and learn about the historic district's ongoing revitalization.

### Virtual Tour: Paul Revere Was Here

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

February 2nd and 16th

Celebrate the life and artistry of the great Paul Revere Williams with our popular virtual tour.

### Virtual Tour: Don't Call Me Ugly

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

March 9th and 23rd

Are buildings from the '70s ugly or just misunderstood? You be the critic on this fascinating (and fun!) interactive tour.

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# LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY

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.



@laconservancy | <u>laconservancy.org</u> | <u>laconservancy.tumblr.com</u>

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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.

# **Conservancy Staff Updates**

We are thrilled to announce that the L.A. Conservancy is now fully staffed!

Welcome to our new Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, **Lindsay Mulcahy**. Lindsay has a strong background in historic preservation, having previously worked as a preservation associate at Hollywood Heritage and held positions within the National Park Service and San Francisco's Tenderloin Housing Clinic. She possesses bachelor degrees in history and hispanic studies as well as a masters degree in heritage conservation and urban planning.

We're also happy to welcome **Manuel Delpino** as our new Operations Assistant. Manny is a proud Bruin with a bachelors degree in history and a strong background in administrative support. Before joining the Conservancy, Manny worked as a disability specialist at UNUM, an instructional assistant with Bright Star Schools, and was also an on-air program assistant for UCLA radio.

And finally, welcome to our new Development Manager **Derek Richardson**. Derek will provide a critical role in overseeing the grants program, engaging with our donor base, planning and executing development events and fundraisers, and much more. Derek joins us from the CDR Fundraising Group and has been a development officer at the Pacific Council on International Policy and a membership coordinator at the Oregon League of Conservation Voters.

# The L.A. Conservancy's Boot Camp is Back in Session



The Conservancy is excited to announce that we are now accepting applications to join the 2022 Community Leadership Boot Camp Spring session (March/April 2022)!

This leadership program engages community members throughout Los Angeles County, helping them build skills to advocate for preservationbased outcomes. During this immersive leadership training, attendees will:

- Hear best practices and lessons learned from the field
- Deepen their understanding of preservation as a planning tool
- Learn how to make a compelling case for preservation
- Connect with other community members who love historic places

For those interested in an opportunity to connect with the Conservancy's Advocacy staff and other community members who care about preserving historic places, Boot Camp might be the right fit for you!

<u>Deadline to apply is February 9th.</u> The 2022 Spring session will be conducted virtually via Zoom. Applicants must be Los Angeles County residents and have active Los Angeles Conservancy membership. For full session dates and full details about the program, please visit: <u>*laconservancy.org/bootcamp*</u>.



Photo by Erik Van Breene/L.A. Conservancy

# New Year, New You in 2022

Happy New Year from all of us here at the L.A. Conservancy!

The New Year brings with it a time of reflection: resolutions are made and goals are set to make the most of the year ahead. Here at the L.A. Conservancy, we're still (safely) shifting into a hybrid world of both in-person and virtual activities, and we have a few ideas to help in your New Years Resolution goals.

From getting your steps in with our docent-led walking tours to investing in your community by supporting your local historic businesses, let the L.A. Conservancy's events and initiatives be part of a new you in 2022!

## **GET THOSE STEPS IN!**

Did you know that our historic downtown walking tour will earn you about 3,000 steps? If one of your resolutions for 2022 is to get active, why not take one (or all!) of the Conservancy's downtown walking tours! Drink in the beauty of downtown's architectual gems while getting that heart rate up. Check our website for walking difficulty as our downtown tours include inclines, stairs, and last approximately two hours. *Iaconservancy.org/tours.* 

# **BE A TOURIST IN YOUR BACKYARD**

For those with a sense of adventure, our self-guided walking tours are an ideal

way to connect with nature and the built environment while learning about L.A.'s rich, layered histories. Be a tourist in your own backyard (at your own pace) and explore countless hidden treasures from Venice to View Park! (Fun fact: for outdoor enthusiasts, our Griffith Park tour includes plenty of hiking trails and treks!) *laconservancy.org/self-guided-tours.* 

## SUPPORT LEGACY BUSINESSES

L.A.'s historic businesses need our help! In 2019, we launched a Legacy Business initiative to raise awareness and encourage support of L.A.'s longtime, historic businesses. Legacy businesses are community anchors, a major source of employment, and in some areas, an essential neighborhood amenity. Make your resolve in 2022 to actively support local, longtime businesses that are an integral part of L.A.'s heritage.

## **BECOME A VOLUNTEER**

As a member of the L.A. Conservancy, you are passionate about L.A. history and its rich architectural treasures. Put that passion into action by becoming an L.A. Conservancy volunteer! Sign up to become a trained walking tour docent, help out at Last Remaining Seats screenings, assist with research, and so much more! Visit our website for details on how to apply: *laconservancy.org/volunteers.* 

# Call for Applications: The 2022 Preservation Awards

Applications for the L.A. Conservancy's 2022 Preservation Awards are open! Since 1982, the Conservancy has honored excellence in the field of historic preservation with our annual Preservation Awards. Award recipients range widely, from sensitive restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse projects, to groundbreaking advocacy and education efforts by individuals and groups.

An independent jury of regarded architects, preservation professionals, and business and community leaders select the Conservancy's preservation award winners. Preservation Award recipients will receive exclusive access to a digital winner seal that can be used on websites and other online media (email signatures, e-newsletters, social media), print media, advertising campaigns, videos, blogs, and a variety of other ways.

To qualify for a Preservation Award, a project must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate outstanding achievement in historic preservation
- Be located in Los Angeles County
- Be completed by the date the application is submitted
- Construction project should meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
- Cultural landscape projects should follow the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes

The date and location of the Preservation Awards celebration will be announced soon! Apply now to get your project recognized or send us a lead if you know a great preservation project that should be recognized! <u>Deadline is February 25th</u>. (\$150 processing fee).

To apply, visit: *laconservancy.org/awards.* 



6879-6881 Alta Loma Terrace in 2021. Photo by Jenna Snow.

# The Philip Ahn/Kurt Cobain Residence: Preserving L.A.'s Untold History

What does pioneering Korean American actor Philip Ahn have in common with grunge rock legend Kurt Cobain? The answer is found in one of the oldest residences in the High Tower neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Located at 6881 Alta Loma Terrace, nestled on a ridge overlooking the Hollywood Bowl, the Craftsman style residence with Japanese influences has an important yet largely untold story to tell.

The Conservancy submitted the Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) nomination to honor the contributions of Asian Americans in Los Angeles, while also recognizing more recent rock music history. The property serves as a strong reminder of how a place can help tell our city's untold layered and shared histories.

## Philip Ahn

Born in 1905, Philip Ahn was the eldest child of Ahn Chang Ho and Helen Ahn, and one of the first Korean Americans born in the United States. Ahn's father was a leading figure in the movement for Korean independence from Japanese colonial rule, as well as a pioneer of the first wave of Korean immigrants to the U.S.

While Ahn's life and legacy is closely tied to that of his father, he was a pioneer in his own right. As one of the few Asian American actors working during the Golden Age of Hollywood, Ahn appeared in more than 200 films and TV shows.

Off screen he was an important figure in the Korean American community and a successful restaurateur. Circa 1952, Ahn moved into the Alta Loma Terrace home where he resided until 1958, but retained ownership of the property until his death in 1978.

This time period marks Ahn's successful transition into television, making him one of the few actors of Asian heritage to thrive despite the studio system's racist casting policies.

## **Kurt Cobain/Courtney Love**

Although the city of Seattle is what normally springs to mind when one thinks back on '90s grunge music, Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain and Courtney Love, lead singer of the rock band Hole called the property home, too. The couple's time at the house was relatively brief, from around 1992 to 1993, but it was here that Cobain reportedly began working on most of Nirvana's final studio album, "In Utero," and Love began writing Hole's second studio album, "Live Through This."

Also while living at the Alta Loma property, Love gave birth to their daughter, Frances Bean Cobain.

## Why This Place Matters

SurveyLA's Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement: Korean Americans in Los Angeles identified the 1921 residence as an eligible historic resource for its association with Philip Ahn, a prominent person in Korean American history.

On December 2nd, 2021, the Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) voted to take the nomination of the residence under consideration. However, the current owner of the property strongly opposes the nomination.

The residence suffers from considerable disrepair and listing it as a local landmark can open the door to economic incentives for restoration and preservation of the residence.

In addition to its historic and cultural significance, the nomination helps increase representation within the City's Historic-Cultural Monument program: very few sites associated with Asian American history are designated landmarks at the local, state, and national levels.

The Philip Ahn/Kurt Cobain Residence is an excellent opportunity to recognize layered histories and preserve places that help tell these stories.

For more background on this issue and details on how to voice support, please visit *laconservancy.org/issues/philip-ahnkurtcobain-residence.* 

# **Preservation Snapshots**



Photo courtesy the Art Deco Society of L.A.

# **Fairfax Theater**

On Dec. 7th, 2021, the L.A. City Council voted to make the Fairfax Theatre a Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM). Congratulations to all of the preservation groups that helped make it happen, especially the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles and Friends of Beverly Fairfax!

The Fairfax Theatre is an important resource as a rare neighborhood theatre designed in the Art Deco Style and for its role in the development of Beverly-Fairfax's Jewish community.

Beginning in the 1920s, the Beverly-Fairfax neighborhood grew as a new Jewish enclave, with the Jewish population expanding and moving west from Boyle Heights.

During that time, from 1930-1969, the Fairfax Theatre played a key role in the Beverly-Fairfax's Jewish community.

Fundraisers held in the theatre were critical for the migration of important cultural institutions from Boyle Heights to the neighborhood.

Despite the building's status as an HCM, a proposed project remains a threat to the historic building. As proposed, the entitled project would demolish all but two primary facades with new construction on the interior of the site.

For full details on this issue, visit our friends at <u>artdecola.org</u> as well as our website <u>laconservancy.org/fairfaxtheatre</u>.



Photo by Sue Hwang

# Nishiyama Residence/ Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

Great news! On January 12th, the L.A. City Council voted to list the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant as a Historic-Cultural Monument! Thank you to co-applicant Boyle Heights Community Partners and all who have supported this nomination.

Located at 2504-2508 East First Street in Boyle Heights, the property is significant for its association with early Japanese American settlement patterns in Boyle Heights. It was owned by the Nishiyama Family from 1924 to 2000 and tells the story of a pioneering Japanese American family.

In 1924, the Nishiyama Family added a commercial building to the property. It originally housed a Japanese-operated grocery store, and later included a Japanese-operated florist shop and barber shop. In 1956, Otemo Sushi Café (now Otomisan Japanese Restaurant) opened in the east-ernmost storefront of the commercial building.

Today, it is the last remaining Japanese restaurant in the neighborhood and believed to be one of L.A.'s oldest continuously-operating Japanese restaurants.

We encourage you to help us celebrate by patronizing Otomisan Japanese Restaurant!



Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy

On January 18, 2022, the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee met to rehear and rescind it's previous vote made on May 4, 2021.

Despite objections from the community, and based on amendments proposed by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, PLUM voted again to change the scope of the Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) to just two exterior signs and a wood bartop.

The result is an HCM designation that is no more than architectural salvage, not including the Taix building itself. This proposal was previously suggested by the owners (Holland Partner Group) of the Taix property and rejected by the Cultural Heritage Commission.

The Council's final vote and Councilmember O'Farrell's motion not only dismisses Taix as a historic resource but greatly undermines the City's Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) program and sets a dangerous precedent. HCM designation is tied to historic buildings and places, not building fragments and salvage.

The Conservancy believes this action is problematic on numerous levels for larger preservation efforts throughout Los Angeles.

For the full background on this issue, visit: *laconservancy.org/taix*.

# 2021 continued from page 1

is accessible to everyone.

Through our virtual and in-person tours and programs, the public—near and far learned about L.A.'s history and the people and places who helped shape it.

We partnered with the Southern California Chapter of the National Association of Minority Architects (NOMA) for an unprecedented campaign around L.A.'s legendary architect, Paul Revere Williams. Programming included virtual panel discussions and tours, self-guided tours, social media fanfare, and two epic benefit events: the virtual premiere of the Conservancy's film, *Revered Residences*, and an in-person event at Phenakite Restaurant located at Williams' historic Anne Banning Community House.

Thousands of folks celebrated Griffith Park's 125th anniversary with us in person, learning more about historic sites and events that took place at this beloved historic park from more than 40 partnering organizations.

We engaged more students and families than ever before through our virtual and inperson field trips and workshops, email and social media outreach, and partnerships in the community.

And, we celebrated the best of historic preservation in Los Angeles County! Following the cancellation of the 2020 Preservation Awards Luncheon, the winners of both 2020 and 2021 Preservation Awards were recognized at an in-person celebration at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Thank you for being part of the Los Angeles Conservancy. We can't wait to build on all the work we've accomplished together in 2021 to make 2022 a historic year.

# YEAR IN REVIEW: ---- **2021** ----

# Watts Happening Cultural Center

On September 29, 2021, the L.A. City Council voted unanimously to designate the Watts Happening Cultural Center a Historic-Cultural Monument!

Designed by Kennard (Robert A. Kennard) and Silvers (Arthur Silvers), this Late-Modern, twostory T-shaped building has been a center and prominent hub for Black artists, writers, musicians, filmmakers, and poets since 1969. Thank you to The Friends at Mafundi for leading this effort!

# **Century Plaza Hotel**

2021 saw the grand re-opening of Minoru Yamasaki's Mid-Century marvel: the Century Plaza Hotel! The Conservancy is extremely grateful to Councilmember Paul Koretz for his leadership in bringing everyone to the table to find a preservation win-win.

To everyone who wrote a letter, made a phone call, took the pledge, or otherwise voiced your support for saving the Century Plaza Hotel, thank you!

# Sister Corita Kent Studio

On June 2, 2021, the L.A. City Council voted to unanimously approve the Sister Corita Studio as a Historic-Cultural Monument!

From 1960-1968, Sister Mary Corita used the building as her studio and classroom where she made some of her most recognizable works, hosted creative leaders, and influenced a generation of young artists. Thank you to everyone who supported the nomination.

# The First Baptist Church of Venice

On September 29, 2021, the L.A. City Council voted unanimously to designate the First Baptist Church of Venice a Historic-Cultural Monument!

The site is among few remaining properties that tell the story of Oakwood, an African American neighborhood in Los Angeles.

Thank you to Save Venice for leading efforts to preserve the site!



# OCTOBER 16 / DECEMBER 15 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.

#### Marble Cornerstone

Leland Ettinger Redcar Properties LTD

#### **Granite Cornerstone**

Richard and Eileen Garson Kenneth Korman Liz Leshin and Dennis Smith Dinah Ruch Watling Foundation, Inc.

#### Limestone Cornerstone

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## Benefactor

William Bradley Kenon Breazeale Ellen and Don Castleman GPA Consulting Gene Hassan Lauren Johnson Carol Jones Kreative Paintworks Wally Marks Craig and Marya Phillips Ginny Stevenson Bob Stiefel Andrea Weiss Dexter Williams

## **Sustaining** Martha Andreani

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James and Sylvia Rothman Lee and Zvia Sadja Lisa and Dennis Supanich Richard Titus Elinor Turner Tony Valdez Steven Warheit and Jean Christensen Elaine and Russell Zarett

#### Supporting

**Timothy Aitkens** Franziska and Raoul Balcaen Russell Brown and Rory Macleod Michele Bryant Linnea and Jeff and Jeff Chapman Joe Clees John and Diane Eyler Gia Gittleson Nancy and William Gubin Roger Grody Quinn Heraty Martin and Mary Hochman June and Monica Kagdis Anne Lamont Kela Martinez Ian Mathis and Trinh Luu Paul Manfredi Felicia and Patrick Michell Frank Moldovan Neil and Judith O'Hanlon Kenneth and Dale Petrulis George Redfox Rick Rood Arlene Samek James Taylor Sean Vandygriff and Karen Da Silva Montenegro Kenneth Weston Diana Woltersdorf and **Delaney Dwyer** 

# L.A. Conservancy wins California Community Foundation Grant!



Last spring, the Los Angeles Conservancy was thrilled to be a recipient of the LA Arts Recovery Fund! This \$1,040,000 grant is our largest to date and we are incredibly grateful to the California Community Foundation.

Like many other organizations, our small and passionate team faced many challenges throughout the pandemic. We stretched our resources and experimented with new technology and platforms to ensure that we could still fulfill our mission. This grant has changed the playing field for us in so many ways, allowing us to strengthen our education and advocacy in raising awareness of historic places. Best of all, it has allowed the Conservancy to fill critical vacant positions. These positions were kept vacant during the pandemic in order to keep existing staff employed, but thanks to this grant the Conservancy is now fully staffed!

It was hard, but we made it through 2021 thanks to the indispensable support and encouragement of members like you. *We share this celebration with you*! We look forward to leveraging our learning over the past two years and move into 2022 stronger than ever—engaging, sustaining, and growing our community of members and supporters, and finding new ways to strengthen our influence so that the historic places we care about continue to stand today and tomorrow.

We are grateful and honored to be among the 90 nonprofits receiving grants so that we can continue serving our community and contributing to the rich cultural fabric and economic recovery of L.A. County. We appreciate all of the donors to the LA Arts Recovery Fund for their belief in the importance of the arts, including historic preservation.

## CONSERVANCY TOURS: WALKING & VIRTUAL

#### WALKING TOURS

Socially distanced, open air walking tours are now available! \$10 for Conservancy members and children seventeen and under; \$15 for the general public. Reservations required: *laconservancy.org/tours*.

#### Broadway Historic Theatre and Commercial District:

Go inside some magnificent movie palaces and learn about the Broadway's revitilization. **Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.** 

#### Art Deco:

Learn how Art Deco became a defining architectural style in the city. **Saturdays**, **10:15 a.m.** 

#### Historic Downtown:

Take a ride on Angels Flight® and step inside Grand Central Market! **Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.** 

#### Union Station:

See the beautiful architecture of this iconic L.A. landmark up close and personal. **Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.** 

#### Modern Skyline:

Learn how old and new architecture co-exist in downtown Los Angeles. **Saturday, February 12, 10:30 a.m.** 



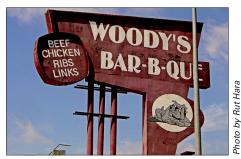
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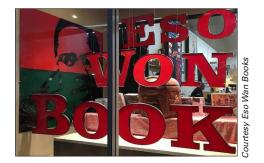


**February is Black History Month!** Consider supporting the many Black-owned legacy businesses across Los Angeles county this month and every month. Legacy businesses are neighborhood anchors that empower their communities and provide a shared sense of community pride. #ISupportLegacyBusinesses



Woody's Bar-B-Que 475 S. Market Street Inglewood, CA 90301 (310) 672-4200

The original Woody's Bar-B-Que is a quintessential mom-and-pop restaurant. The late Woody Phillips —a native Louisianan and a true South L.A. community pillar—opened this famous corner walkup in 1975. For many, Woody's big Southern-style flavors and slow-cooked, brick masonry bbq is the best in town! **woodysbarbquela.com** 



Eso Won Books 4327 Degnan Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90008 (323) 290-1048

Leimert Park's Eso Won Books has been a permanent home for Black authors and a dedicated space for the community since 1989. Eso Won — a derivation of the Egyptian city Aswan, meaning "water over rocks" — has a longtime presence at the L.A. Times Book Fair and enjoys a loyal, multicultural clientele. **esowonbookstore.com** 



Antique Stove Heaven 5414 S. Western Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90062 (323) 298-5581

Since 1982, proprietor Winsor Williams has painstakingly serviced and restored vintage brands such as O'Keefe & Merritt and Magic Chef. (If you're in the market for an antique stove, he's got you covered!) You've seen his work in period films, glossy magazines, and his clientele has included celebrities such as Denzel Washington. **antiquestoveheaven.com**