



LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY NEWS



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Created by women for women, the 1894 Ebell of Los Angeles is one of the oldest and largest women's clubs in the nation. Photo by Annie Laskey/L.A. Conservancy.

The Women Behind the Buildings: Celebrating Women's History Month

by Sarah Lann

In 1978, an education task force in Sonoma County began a movement when it instituted a Women's History Week during the month of March to redress the lack of women's history taught in California's K-12 curriculum.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter declared March 2-8 National Women's History Week. In his address to the nation that year he stated:

From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength, and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.

Almost ten years after the small movement in California began, Congress declared March 1987 the first National Women's History Month.

At the Los Angeles Conservancy, when we envision the women who built America, we think about them literally: they are the female developers, architects, landscapers, and planners who commissioned and created the

Please see WOMEN on page 6

New Student Tour Launches in January

We're excited to announce ***A Woman's Place***, a new student tour focused on the women of Union Station and Chinatown.

The ninety-minute tour launches at the end of January, and tells the histories of two interconnected communities through the understated voices of the women who worked or lived there.

Students will learn how Union Station and Chinatown brought people of different backgrounds to Los Angeles, creating the diversity we see today. They'll understand why the contributions of women, particularly women of color, made that diversity possible.

The tour includes a short ride on the Metro Gold Line from Union Station to Chinatown.

Please help us spread the word amongst educators, youth groups, and community organizations.

For more information about our youth programming and to register for this tour, visit laconservancy.org/student-programs.

Scholarships are available for groups in need of financial assistance. •

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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.



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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.

Thank You For a Memorable 2018

As we say goodbye to 2018, we want to take a moment to thank the people who make our work possible: our members. **You.**

You made it possible for us to initiate landmark nominations, attend hearings, and work to stop the needless demolition of our historic resources.

You made it possible for us to expand our Student Walking Tour program, allowing us to foster the next generation of preservationists.

You made it possible for local governments to receive help from the Conservancy to create and improve preservation programs.

And for that, we thank you.

On page three you'll find a snapshot of what your membership made possible in 2018.

We have a lot in store in 2019—let's make an even larger impact this coming year.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Upcoming Events

For more information and to register for our upcoming events, visit laconservancy.org/events.

March 10, 23, 24

Women's History Month events: Join us in celebrating women and their contributions to L.A.'s built environment. See cover story for more details (member presale begins January 30 at laconservancy.org/womenshistory)

Saturday, May 4

From Goose to Google: Our annual benefit takes place inside the former "Spruce Goose" hangar at the Hercules Campus in Playa Vista, currently the location of Google Playa Vista (registration opens February 20 at laconservancy.org/benefit2019)

June 1, 8, 16, 22, 29

Last Remaining Seats: See classic films light up the big screens of L.A.'s historic theatres! Lineup announced in March (laconservancy.org/lrs)

Thursday, July 25

Preservation Awards Luncheon: Celebrate the best preservation projects in L.A. County at our annual luncheon at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel (laconservancy.org/awards)

2018

made possible by YOU



51 ADVOCACY ISSUES

Your membership funded countless hours of advocating for the preservation of our built environment

HIGHS

AND

LOWS

OF

2018

1,475 YOUNG PRESERVATIONISTS

You made it possible for us to expand our Student Walking Tour and youth outreach programs, introducing young Angelenos to the importance of heritage conservation



Landmarked: The Woman's Building

Thanks to a successful nomination and support from countless Angelenos, this important icon of women's history became one of L.A.'s newest Historic-Cultural Monuments.



Demolished: Palms Farmhouse

Because the motion to initiate designation of this rare, turn-of-the-century farmhouse had not yet been adopted by City Council, there was no hold on permit activity. L.A. city officials granted a demolition permit for the property in November. Demolition work began three days later.



20,000 ATTENDEES

Your funding supported over 300 walking tours, a tour of the Fashion District, a season of Last Remaining Seats, and a historic neighborhoods conference, introducing thousands of people to the rich architectural and cultural history of Greater L.A.

Landmarked: CBS Television City

With the support of CBS, the Conservancy successfully nominated the historic studio for its rich Hollywood history.

Damaged: Pickle Works Building

A fire severely damaged the Victorian-era brick building in the Arts District. Prior to the fire, the Conservancy has actively worked for over ten years to find a preservation solution. The building's future is now more uncertain than ever.

317 VOLUNTEERS

Most of our work wouldn't be possible without our amazing volunteers—many of whom are members—who share their time, passion, and expertise with the Conservancy



Funded: Church of the Epiphany

The church won much-needed funding for repairs through the National Trust's Partners in Preservation initiative.



10 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Thanks to you, 10 local governments received direct assistance on creating or updating preservation programs and policies



A proposed mixed-use development project threatens the Flower Drive Historic District in West Adams, pictured above. Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy.

Flower Drive Historic District: Will It Survive?

by Adrian Scott Fine

A proposed mixed-use development of four structures threatens the Flower Drive California Register Historic District, an intact neighborhood of affordable, multi-family fourplexes.

Located on the 3900 block of Flower Drive in West Adams, the proposed development, known as The Fig, would include a hotel, student and mixed-income housing, and parking. As proposed, the project would demolish nearly half of the adjacent historic district and remove thirty-two existing rent-controlled residential units.

Those thirty-two apartments are more than just a statistic. They represent the real people whose lives connect to these buildings. They represent a community.

Long-time residents who want to stay express the pain caused by the loss of their street and the destruction of their memories. Some have lived there since the early 1980s, and are elderly and on fixed incomes.

The developer, The Ventus Group, is currently pressuring residents to leave and accept a quick buyout, even though the project has not yet been approved.

The redevelopment of older housing and subsequent displacement of residents is a complicated—and very personal—issue occurring throughout the Los Angeles area. There is no single right answer or solution except that every project should be treated as a case-by-case basis.

The problem with The Fig is its all or nothing approach, ignoring po-

tential win-win scenarios that would allow for new development and the historic district to coexist.

Since early 2017, the Conservancy, West Adams Heritage Association, and others repeatedly pointed to community support for a modified design that allows for greater height and density, avoiding demolition of nearly half of the historic district. The project developer and the City maintain that there is no community support for higher density.

Why build only seven stories at a site where it makes sense to build taller and with more density?

The project originally called for a twenty-one-story hotel. The current version calls for a scaled-down seven stories. The developer instead proposed to relocate some



The Fig project rendering. Photo courtesy The Ventus Group.

of the fourplexes to scattered sites in the West Adams neighborhood.

Putting this into larger context, Los Angeles and many cities are experiencing an affordable housing crisis. What isn't acknowledged enough is the role that older and historic multi-family housing plays in providing affordable units, often at disproportionate levels. As a finite resource that is quickly depleting, why are we demolishing existing rent-controlled units?

Since 2003, more than four million units of older housing were demolished nationwide. **In 2018, Los Angeles lost an estimated 5.5 units of rent-controlled housing every day.** Most of these were demolished intentionally, often in favor of redevelopment and the promise of more affordable housing offered through projects like The Fig (currently proposing eighty-two affordable units; a net gain of fifty after demolishing thirty-two existing rent control units).

As Los Angeles continues to plan through a project-by-project and

parcel approach, no one seems to acknowledge the larger cumulative impacts. Destroying permanent, rent-controlled housing in favor of affordable units that eventually convert to market-rate isn't a solution to the affordable housing crisis. Questions like these go unanswered as we continue to demolish older and historic rent-controlled units.

We expect The Fig project to go

to the City Planning Commission in February. The Conservancy and other community groups will attend and press for a win-win alternative that does not needlessly destroy a California Register historic district and the long-term home of residents.

Learn more about this project and our position at laconservancy.org/flower-drive.



The Fig project calls for the needless demolition of thirty-two rent-controlled multi-family fourplexes. Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy.

Women continued from page 1

buildings we use today.

Our mission is to preserve the history of *all* Angelenos. It's time that we shine a light on these historic places and share the inspirational stories about the women behind our buildings.

This March, join us as we celebrate historic places created by and for women in Los Angeles County. Attend one or more of our events—which include tours, panels, a screening, and more—to get a fresh perspective of L.A.'s built environment. Learn about the fearless and talented women who excelled in their various disciplines—all while shattering glass ceilings.

Read on for a sneak preview of the fun events ahead!

Member presale begins **January 30**. For full information and to register for these events, visit laconservancy.org/womenshistory. Be sure to sign up for our Events email list to hear first about newly added events.

All tours and locations are subject to change.

Sunday, March 10

Ebell of Los Angeles Tour

Founded in 1894 by women, for women, the Ebell of Los Angeles is one of the oldest and largest women's clubs in the nation.

Tour the Ebell's current home, a magnificent Italian Renaissance-style complex by Sumner Hunt, with gardens designed by Florence Yoch. Visit the auditorium, library, art salon, solarium, dressing rooms, and gardens, and see the Ebell's collection of fine furnishings and art. Don't miss the Ebell Costume Collection which features pieces from the mid-1800s.

Members: \$20
Non-members: \$25
Youth 17 and under: \$10

Citizen Jane: Battle for the City at the Historic Wilshire Ebell Theatre

Later in the day, join us for a screening of *Citizen Jane: Battle for the City* at the historic Wilshire Ebell Theatre.

The 2016 critically-acclaimed documentary re-examines the seminal showdown between activist Jane Jacobs and New York City's "Master Builder" Robert Moses over Greenwich Village, a fight that ultimately influenced the nation.

Regarded as the founding mother

of the fight against urban redevelopment in our cities, Jacobs was a leading figure in the field of urbanism and greatly influenced the growth of the preservation movement.

Following the film, a panel of women will discuss Jacobs' legacy, and the roles women play in protecting America's historic neighborhoods.

Members: \$15
Non-members: \$20
Youth 17 and under: \$10

Ebell Tour and Film Bundle

Tour the Ebell and watch the movie! Take advantage of these special rates and make a day out of it.

Members: \$30
Non-members: \$40
Youth 17 and under: \$20

Saturday, March 23

By Women, For Women

The Downtown Women's Center, built in 1927 by powerhouse developer Florence Casler, houses over two hundred women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women.

Seven miles west, the YWCA-owned Hollywood Studio Club operates as a temporary shelter for women experiencing homelessness. Their beds lie in converted dormitories that once

housed women hoping to launch their careers in the movie industry, including Marilyn Monroe and Donna Reed.

Designed by master architect Julia Morgan, the 1926 Mediterranean-style building features an arcaded loggia with a painted frieze for its entrance.

Learn the history behind these buildings and witness how the works of one generation of women serves the needs of another generation.

Members: \$20
Non-member: \$25
Youth 17 and under: \$10

Please note: You must provide your own transportation between tour sites.

Sunday, March 24

By Women, For Women: South Bay

World War II transformed the lives of women throughout the nation.

Visit sites throughout San Pedro, including the Julia Morgan-designed YWCA Harbor Area and South Bay, and learn how Southern Californian women influenced the war effort.

Tours include a panel conversation.

Member price: \$15
Non-member: \$20
Youth 17 and under: \$10

OCTOBER 10 / NOVEMBER 29

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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

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2018 Volunteer Docents

In 2018, our highly trained docents guided over 10,000 people through historic downtown Los Angeles, educating them on the importance of historic preservation.

To the 84 docents listed below: we couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you!

Alice Allen	Lindsay
Janis Ashley	McMenamin*
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*Led 20+ tours



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Members/Youth: \$10
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weekly walking tours

DETAILS AND RESERVATIONS AT
laconservancy.org/tours

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first Saturday of the
month, 9:45 a.m.

**BROADWAY THEATRE
DISTRICT**
Saturdays, 10 a.m.

**MILLENNIUM
BILTMORE HOTEL**
Sundays, 2 p.m.

ART DECO
Thursdays, 11 a.m.
Saturdays, 10 a.m.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
Wednesdays, 11 a.m.
Saturdays, 10 a.m.

UNION STATION
Saturdays, 10 a.m.

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