



LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY 40TH ANNIVERSARY



Your membership supports our work of empowering communities to preserve the places they love. Above, preservationists picket in an effort to save the historic Plummer Park, Great Hall/Long Hall in West Hollywood. Photo courtesy Protect Plummer Park.

Members Preserve L.A.'s Heritage and Make Way for Its Vibrant Future

by Linda Dishman

As the Los Angeles Conservancy marks forty years of dedicated service to Angelenos, we are grateful to our board, members, donors, advocates, and volunteers who make our work possible.

What began as a handful of concerned citizens taking a stand to save the Los Angeles Central Library from proposed demolition is now the largest member-supported local preservation organization in the U.S.

Thank you for your loyalty and support!

We simply cannot continue saving historic places without your help. Members like you enable us to swiftly respond to unexpected threats to architecturally and culturally significant sites, and to be an influential voice in their preservation.

Could you imagine if the Conservancy had not been there to protect Bullock's Wilshire, the Century Plaza Hotel, or the Cinerama Dome?

Over our four decades, we've addressed countless preservation issues, provided technical assistance to thousands of people, and held hundreds of tours to educate fellow Angelenos and visitors about the importance of preserving our tangible history.

As we enter our forty-first year, we march forward more passionate than ever!

Please see THANK YOU on page 6

Matching Gift Challenge Doubles Your Impact Before December 31

by Liz Leshin

We are excited to share that former Conservancy Board Member Beth Edwards Harris will generously match all donations to the Preservation Advocacy Fund (PAF) dollar-for-dollar up to \$30,000. Until December 31, your donation counts twice as much, so please don't wait!

The Conservancy is a small and mighty team, but we need your help to continue advocating for the places in Los Angeles we cherish most.

This fund goes above and beyond membership dues to make this work possible. Donations to PAF enable us to take direct action and mobilize support to preserve historic and culturally significant places—because once they're gone, they're gone.

But our advocacy work takes significant time and resources, and we need your help. Preservation issues can take months, even years, of continuous advocacy. Donations to PAF allow our advocacy staff to attend public meetings, prepare landmark nominations, and offer technical

Please see DONATE 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 and the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation.

Join Our Email List to Stay Up to Date

We love to keep Conservancy members like you in the know! Please share or confirm your email address with us to receive the timeliest updates on advocacy issues and notifications about every upcoming event.

This fall, we had the unexpected opportunity to offer our friends an exclusive preview of the new Imperial Western Beer Co., located in the former Fred Harvey Restaurant space at L.A.'s historic Union Station. With less than a week's notice, we were able to only promote this special event benefitting the Conservancy by email. We don't want you to miss out on exciting opportunities like these!

To ensure you're always the first to know about our programs and advocacy issues, please contact us to update your email. You can reach us at (213) 623-2489 or member@laconservancy.org.

To subscribe to one or more email lists, visit laconservancy.org, click "Subscribe" at the top of the page, and make your selection from our various lists. Or, simply log into your account on our website and change it in your profile.



Members who shared their current email address with us were among the first to hear about our exclusive benefit at the former Fred Harvey Restaurant at L.A.'s Union Station. Photos by Mike Hume.

Going Digital Means Going Green

Did you know that we offer an emailed digital version of this newsletter? It's the exact same newsletter, just better. Here's why.

By choosing PDF instead of a mailed newsletter, you're going green and saving many resources that we can put to use elsewhere.

Digital versions of the newsletter are not only in color, but hyperlinked, meaning you can simply click on a link and instantly be taken to the website.

Members who elect to receive their newsletter by email get theirs around two weeks sooner than those who choose print. That time frame makes a difference when we're announcing tours and other events.

But the most important reason to go digital is to be environmentally friendly.

Going green is easy. Simply change your newsletter preference through your online account, or contact us at member@laconservancy.org or (213) 623-2489.



An ADU in Silver Lake. Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy.

Granny Flats: A Preservation Strategy for the Housing Crisis

by Adrian Scott Fine

Two issues at the center of the mounting housing crisis in Los Angeles are density and increasing the number of housing units.

Thankfully, older and historic single-family neighborhoods—including the City's existing thirty-five Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs)—can play an important role in providing more affordable housing options.

Today, Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), better known as “granny flats,” are a legal way to add density to land you already own, which is typically the biggest cost in housing today. They're a great way of increasing the housing supply.

ADUs allow for families to age in place, with several generations living in close proximity. This isn't a new practice: some of L.A.'s older neighborhoods have back houses dating as far back as the 1920s.

Until recently, adding a new ADU was a difficult process and often occurred through unpermitted means—L.A. alone has an estimated 50,000 unpermitted ADUs. That changed in

2017, when a new California law went into effect permitting ADUs in all residential zoning districts, whether existing or proposed.

Under this law, local governments can only prohibit ADUs in certain instances involving health and safety concerns. In response to the state's action, the City had to throw out its existing process and start over. A draft ordinance is currently under review.

Throughout California, cities can set conditions and limitations to help guide the construction and compatibility of ADUs. L.A.'s proposed ordinance intends to implement state law, but also adds some tailored policies, such as restricting ADUs in hillside areas (possibly with some exceptions), preventing ADUs in front of existing homes, and allowing for a movable tiny house.

The maximum size of an ADU is a critical factor, since ideally it should not overwhelm the existing house, but rather provide enough usable square footage to make it viable. Under state law, the size of an ADU cannot exceed 1,200 square feet for a detached unit,

or half the size of the existing house for those attached, whichever is smaller.

Adding ADUs in HPOZs will be more complicated, and involves the City amending the preservation plan for each of the thirty-five HPOZs. This process is in the works though staff are currently reviewing and signing off on ADU requests in the HPOZs.

While cities catch up to the state's legislation, residents are not waiting and increasingly pursuing ADUs, whether for long-term housing, guest quarters, or short-term rentals through Airbnb. In the last two years, the City has issued around 5,400 ADU permits. That's an average of more than 350 per month. Most of these new ADUs are located within existing space, such as converting free-standing garages into housing.

Earlier this year, our biennial L.A. Historic Neighborhoods Conference featured a session on ADUs, offering more information on rules and limitations, costs involved, and more. For more information about granny flats in L.A., visit laconservancy.org/neighborhoods.

In October, the City received a \$1 million grant through the Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge to fund a program pairing homeowners with homeless residents.

Under the program, participating homeowners can receive up to \$30,000 worth of assistance in the construction of an ADU on their property. In exchange, the homeowner agrees to rent the unit to a homeless resident, with rental assistance from the County.

The program is expected to launch in the spring. For more information, contact mayors.challenge@lacity.org.

To learn more about the legislation mentioned in this article, visit tinyurl.com/CA-ADU-info.

Holiday Tours Return in December

The wait is over: Our popular holiday tours return Thursdays and Fridays this December!

Registration opens Wednesday, November 7 at 10 a.m. Tours cost \$10 for Conservancy members and youth 17 and under, \$15 for the general public.

For full details and to register, visit laconservancy.org/tours.

Union Station

*Fridays, 5:00 p.m.
December 7, 14, 21*

Our regular Union Station tour with a holiday twist! See Union Station dressed up for the holidays on this evening tour.

Holiday Highlights

*Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.
December 6, 13, 20*

This 90-minute holiday tour brings together some of our favorite downtown buildings, such as the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, the Central Library, and The CalEdison, decked out for the holidays.

Hurry! Limited spots available.



The CalEdison is just one of many stops on the Holiday Highlights tour. Photo by Jessica Hodgdon/L.A. Conservancy.

Be the Ultimate Angeleno This Holiday Season

by Tiffany Narváez

Los Angeles is a truly beautiful city this time of year. Twinkling lights adorn the region's palm trees, while Christmas trees and menorahs liven up our homes, stores, and even our office lobbies.

While it's easy to get swept away by the holiday cheer, we can't forget what the holidays are truly about: giving.

That's why we've compiled this handy guide to giving back, Angeleno style.

1. Launch a Facebook Fundraiser

We hope you've already liked us on Facebook (@laconservancy), where we're constantly posting updates on preservation is-sues.

Facebook fundraising and events are a great way to publicly support the Conservancy, while encouraging friends and family to support a cause you care about.

Launching a Facebook fundraiser is easy. Simply visit our Facebook page and click on "Create Fundraiser" at the top of the page.

2. Gift a Conservancy membership

Give someone the delight of knowing that they are contributing to the preservation of L.A.'s heritage. Plus, they'll also receive a pass for a free walking tour for two. How can you deny someone the joy of a Conservancy walking tour?

Purchase the gift of preservation at laconservancy.org/join.

3. Take a Holiday Walking Tour

Holidays + downtown L.A. = magic. This December, share your love for our tangible heritage with friends and family. It's the perfect thing to do

with out-of-town guests!

See full schedule on left sidebar. To register, visit laconservancy.org/tours.

4. Buy a 40th anniversary Conservancy t-shirt

It all started with the Central Library. Threatened with proposed demolition, a group of concerned citizens formed the Conservancy and the rest is history!

What better symbol to represent our fortieth anniversary than the icon that started it all? Celebrate with us by wearing this special edition t-shirt. We have only a limited number of shirts left.

What are you waiting for? Get yours at laconservancy.org/shop.



Photo by Tiffany Narváez/L.A. Conservancy.

5. Donate to the Preservation Advocacy Fund (PAF)

The PAF specifically funds our advocacy work. It allows our advocacy staff to protect the historic places you love.

When you donate to PAF, you too become an advocate for the preservation of our tangible history. Plus, gifts made by December 31 count twice as much, thanks to a generous matching challenge. Learn more on page 1.

Donate at laconservancy.org/paf.

Volunteer Spotlight: Paul Tolbert

by Bruce Scottow

The Conservancy relies on the support of members and volunteers to advocate for historic preservation.

As mentioned in our cover story, members fund the work that we do. But volunteers *assist* us in all of the work we do, from guiding walking tours, to mailing letters, to planning and staffing our Last Remaining Seats programming.

Our work wouldn't be possible without our volunteers. That's why we like to regularly feature volunteers in our newsletter.

Paul Tolbert is a volunteer of two years. Below is a bit about him, in his own words.

I have been fortunate to have always had a job I loved. When I came to California from New Mexico and Texas in 1984, it was battlefield analysis of smart munitions at Aerojet and 15 years later it was analyzing space surveillance satellite data at Northrop Grumman.

These great jobs made it easy to use 'too much to do at work' as an excuse for not



Photo courtesy Paul Tolbert.

doing anything in downtown Los Angeles. Then one day I saw a Last Remaining Seats ad for a classic movie I wanted to see, and it was in an old theatre. But I found out too late to go. So I joined the L.A. Conservancy just to get earlier notifications about movies and that worked for a long time.

Then one day, [Volunteer and Program Coordinator] Bruce [Scottow] sent out an email to members asking if anybody was interested in being on the Last Remaining Seats committee. Here was a chance to see more of the old theaters.

Sometime along the way, I started learning something about architecture and preservation. I discovered that helping with events such as the Chinatown and Koreatown tours was much more interesting than just taking the tour.

As I became more involved, I understood how important membership support is to running the Conservancy's programs, and decided to become a Cornerstone member.

I would love to get even more involved as a tour docent except for my primary hobbies: my weekends are filled with grandkids in San Diego who play ice hockey, grandkids in Seal Beach who play soccer, and grandkids in Kansas who come for about a month every summer.

Thank you, Paul, for your dedication!

If you'd like to volunteer with us, visit laconservancy.org/volunteer. Or, contact Bruce Scottow at bscottow@laconservancy.org.

Join the Last Remaining Seats Committee

Last Remaining Seats (LRS), our summer series of classic films in historic theatres, is our largest and most popular event. But what truly sets it apart is the volunteer committee that works to put it together every year.

The LRS Committee is composed of a wide variety of people from different experiences, backgrounds, and ages who come together to create this wonderful series. We're currently looking for fresh faces to lend their creativity, enthusiasm, and elbow grease for

the 2019 season.

You don't need to be a film or theatre expert to serve on the LRS Committee. Duties include planning and implementing the pre-film programming, displays, and interactives.

The committee typically meets in our downtown office on Tuesday evenings. For a list of upcoming meetings, visit laconservancy.org/volunteer.

For more information and to attend a meeting, please email Bruce at bscottow@laconservancy.org.



Last Remaining Seats Committee members are responsible for the fun extras at the screenings. Above, a lion dancer performs at the screening of *The Joy Luck Club* earlier this year. Photos by Douglas Hill.

Donate

continued from page 1

assistance to individuals, as well as communities throughout the County interested in developing preservation ordinances.

We believe that by empowering our communities, we maximize the impact of our work. We collaborate with residents and community groups to preserve the neighborhoods and the places they value most. We engage Angelenos of all ages through our website, newsletter, emails, and social media posts.

Your tax-deductible donation of any amount will make a real difference in our ability to shine a light on important history that may otherwise be overlooked.

This holiday season, please double your impact by participating in the PAF matching gift challenge.

Visit laconservancy.org/paf for more information and to donate.

We appreciate your support!

Give with Trust

Thank you for entrusting the Los Angeles Conservancy with your support. As you plan your charitable giving this holiday season, we want to you to know that the Conservancy is a responsible steward of historic resources *and your donations*.

Did You Know?

82% of each gift directly supports our advocacy, youth, and education programs.



Thank You continued from page 1

We must.

Los Angeles faces unprecedented challenges in planning and development. Your support enables the Conservancy to be a leader and resource, ensuring that Los Angeles balances its growth with responsible preservation values and strategies in mind.

To that end, the Conservancy has commissioned a study to rigorously analyze the economic impact of preservation on affordable housing, creative industries, density, sustainability, and more. The study will be completed and released in coming months.

We are also in the process of updating our Preservation Report Card. We'll recognize communities (the County's eighty-eight incorporated cities and the county government) that have created or improved their preservation programs, and assist those seeking to create or improve their protection of historic resources.

The Conservancy remains fiercely committed to our education and youth programs which foster the next generation of preservationists. The future of L.A. lies in their hands.

Through our tours and programs, we showcase our landmarks with pride, providing context for why they're still important today. This is how we

spark change.

Consider the transformation of Broadway. For decades, the Conservancy worked hard to revitalize the underutilized historic theatres and buildings along this fabled street. We worked with city officials and property owners, and brought people to the

street through our walking tours and Last Remaining Seats. The largest historic theatre district listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Broadway is now a thriving destination.

These are the types of initiatives you support with your membership, donations, and time.

As we reflect on our four decades, we are thankful to count on people like you who share our urgency in protecting L.A.'s heritage—

a collective of diverse historic neighborhoods, structures, landscapes, and buildings that tell our shared stories from yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

This year end, won't you make an extra special gift—beyond your membership—and help us continue protecting our most cherished historic places? The future of Los Angeles counts on us to preserve its history.

To make a gift, please visit laconservancy.org/donate.

Thank you!



Your support directly funds our youth programming, including our work with Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA). Above, HOLA students visit MacArthur Park and learn about the history, significance, and importance of their own neighborhood. Photo by Sana Ahmed/L.A. Conservancy.

JULY 27 / OCTOBER 9 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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(\$10,000+)

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Jonathan Skow 1962 - 2018



Jonathan at our benefit at Silvertop in 2017.
Photo by Larry Underhill.

Jonathan Skow, photographer, fashion designer, philanthropist, and co-founder of the clothing lines Trina Turk and Mr Turk, passed away on October 12 at the age of 55.

Jonathan was a devoted preservationist and a Conservancy member of over twenty-five years. He and his wife, Trina Turk, purchased and restored three historic homes, including a 1936 Streamline Moderne in Palm Springs nicknamed the Ship of the Desert, and a 1940s J.R. Davidson-designed home in Silver Lake.

Their most recent project, the John Lautner-designed Salkin House (1948), earned them a Conservancy Preservation Award earlier this year.

Jonathan joined us at most Conservancy events, including countless Last Remaining Seats screenings and our very first trip to Cuba in 2015.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of such a wonderful spirit, and grateful for Jonathan's long-standing support.

He is survived by his wife Trina, mother Barbara, and brother Nathan (Luanne).

WALKING TOURS

Angelino Heights

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

Art Deco

Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Broadway Historic Theatre & Commercial District

Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Historic Downtown

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

Millennium Biltmore Hotel

Sundays, 2 p.m.

Union Station

Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Customized group tours available
by special arrangement.

Conservancy members:	\$10
Youth (17 & under):	\$10
General public:	\$15

Most tours require reservations.

For details and reservations, visit
laconservancy.org/tours.

Questions? Contact us at
info@laconservancy.org or (213)
623-2489.



Photo by Jessica Hodgdon/L.A. Conservancy.

Holiday Walking Tours

Thursdays & Fridays
December 6 - 21

See downtown all dressed up for the holidays on our special Holiday Highlights and Union Station tours. Details on [page 4](#).



Photo by Stephen Russo.

Last Remaining Seats Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 8, 7 p.m.

Join the Last Remaining Seats volunteer committee and work behind the scenes to make this decades-long tradition possible. Details on [page 5](#).



The Woman's Building. Photo by Mike Hume.

Preservation Advocacy Fund Matching Gift

Donations to our Preservation Advocacy Fund go beyond membership dues to support our advocacy work. Plus, through December 31, you have a chance to double your impact. Details on [page 1](#).