

Law Office of Daniel Wright

467 Crane Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90065
(213) 925-2592 tel.
fiberflash@aol.com

Date: 6/3/11
Submitted in ARTJ Committee
Council File No: 11-0884
Item No.: 1
~~RE: 11-0884~~ Public Comment

June 2, 2011

Ms. June Lagmay, City Clerk
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, Rm. 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Submission to Council Files 11-0884 and 11-0928 Documents Relevant to the History of Autry National Center's Efforts to Move the Exhibitions, Collections, and Gardens of the General Plan Protected Southwest Museum Into the Autry's Museum – All in Direct Violation of the General Plan, California Environmental Quality Act, Autry Board Fiduciary Duties Owed to the Assets of the Southwest Museum, and the Will of the People of Los Angeles.

Dear Ms. Lagmay:

Attached to this cover letter are the following documents we ask be scanned and placed into two Council Files: 11-0884 and 11-0928:

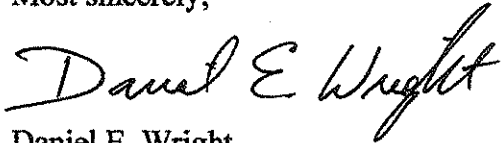
1. Lease Agreement Between City of Los Angeles and Autry Museum and related documents.
2. Correspondence and Merger Agreements of the Autry Museum and the Women of the West Museum (2002) and the Autry Museum and the Southwest Museum (2003).
3. 2004 Autry Expert Rehabilitation Report for the Southwest Museum.
4. Complaint of Violation of Business and Professions Code Sections 125 and 5100 By Accountants of the Autry Museum.
5. March 6, 2008 Report of Jack Siegel RE: 2003 Merger.
6. Petitions Signed by Over 7,000 Individuals Demanding Imposition of a Condition on Any Autry Museum Project in Griffith Park to Assure Enforcement of Autry Merger Promise to Operate the Southwest Museum if Shown Feasible By Its Experts Study.

7. January 25, 2008 Report of Minager & Associates Reviewing Draft Traffic Study For the Autry Museum's Expansion of Exhibition and Public Uses in Its Griffith Park Museum.
8. June 29, 2009 Letter of Northeast Community Plan Experts on Negative Impact of Replicating Southwest Museum Exhibits in Griffith Park Autry Museum Building.

Please see that all of these documents are promptly placed into both Council File 11-0884 and 11-0928 so that City Council Committee members may review these matters before the scheduled meetings or hearings on this subject.

Also, please forward to me any Notice of Exemption, Notice of Determination or other document that may have been filed in your office or in the office of the County Recorder in connection with the Recreation and Parks Commission decision on May 20, 2011 to approve a project in the Autry National Center building. This request places upon you a mandatory duty to immediately provide any copies of any environmental notice in your possession. If you have any questions about the nature of this request, please immediately contact me at (213) 925-2592.

Most sincerely,



Daniel E. Wright

cc: Arts and Cultural Committee of City Council

- Craftsman (1895-1920)
- Colonial Revival 1895-1915)
- Spanish Colonial Revival 1915-1941)
- Utilitarian Commercial 1915-1929)
- Art Deco 1920-1941)
- Streamline Modern 1930-1941)

In addition to the built form and streetscape, natural and man-made open space amenities define the area. The Los Angeles River's riparian habitat flowing through the Atwater Village area is among the natural features with greatest potential. Other geologic landforms such as the San Rafael Hills, and Mount Washington, and Montecito Heights add to the richness of the natural landscape of the Northeast communities which also includes open spaces, park lands and equestrian trails.

Preservation of Historic and Cultural Amenities

This section provides a basis to effectively preserve, enhance and maintain sites and structures which have been deemed culturally and/or historically significant. Policies and programs for historic preservation are also addressed in the residential section of this Chapter.

GOAL 14

A community which preserves and restores the monuments, cultural resources, neighborhoods and landmarks which have

historical and/or cultural significance.

OBJECTIVE 14-1

To ensure that the Plan Area's significant cultural and historical resources are protected, preserved and/or enhanced.

POLICIES

14-1.1 Establish one or more Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZ) to protect and enhance the use of historic structures and neighborhoods.

Program: The Plan Map identifies: 1) a potential Historic Preservation Overlay Zone for the Lincoln Heights area which if adopted by the City Council will afford protection and promote the enhancement of the area; and 2) the adopted Historic Preservation Overlay Zone for Highland Park.

14-1.2 Identify all designated City of Los Angeles Historic and Cultural Monuments in order to foster public appreciation of the City of Los Angeles' valuable historic resources and to promote education of the public by preserving Los Angeles' historic past and to promote that any other appropriate landmarks of unique architectural and historical significance continue to be identified for the purpose of inclusion in the list.

Program: The Plan includes in the Appendix, a complete list of sites which have been designated by the Los Angeles City Council as Historic and Cultural Monuments in the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan Area. In

addition through inclusion of this Plan policy, the Plan supports the continued identification of appropriate landmarks.

OBJECTIVE 14-2

To protect and enhance historic and architectural resources in commercial areas in a manner that will encourage revitalization and investment in these areas.

POLICIES

14-2.1 Encourage the preservation, maintenance, enhancement and adaptive reuse of existing buildings in commercial areas through the restoration of original facades and the design of new construction which complements the old in a harmonious fashion, enhancing the historic pattern.

Program: Continue implementation of the Highland Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone; addition of proposed Lincoln Heights Historic Preservation Overlay Zone; implementation of the Historic Preservation design standards in the Urban Design Chapter of this Plan.

OBJECTIVE 14-3

To enhance and capitalize on the contribution of existing cultural and historical resources in the community.

POLICIES

→ 14-3.1 Support the Southwest Museum as a

cultural resource, encourage expansion both on and off site, and preserve its present location in Mt. Washington.

Program: The Plan's policies and programs, regarding transit stations and transit-oriented districts improve the viability and accessibility of the museum and reinforce its significance as a focal point of the community.

14-3.2 Support the continued progress in the relocation and restoration of Victorian-era structures on the site along the Arroyo Seco Channel between Avenue 43 and Pasadena Avenue in Heritage Square.

Program: The Plan supports the continued progress of Heritage Square, which is designated by the Los Angeles City Council as a Historic and Cultural Monument and identified in the Plan's Appendix.

14-3.3 Maintain the continued preservation of the unobstructed view from public locations of the unique natural formation of the Eagle Rock.

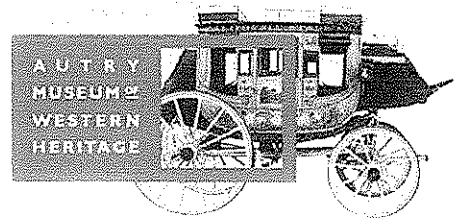
Program: The Plan designates the area immediately surrounding the Rock for Low Residential and cluster type housing in order to preserve a view of the Rock.

Require a decision-maker to make a finding that any project in the immediate vicinity of the Eagle Rock will not obstruct views of the Rock.

The 1979 Plan designated approximately two-thirds of the total land area for residential use.



Date: 2/3/11
Submitted in ARTS Committee
Council File No: 11-0884
Item No.: 1
~~Display:~~ Public Comment



January 14, 2003

Charles J. Fisher & Anne Marie Wozniak
140 S Avenue 57
Los Angeles, CA 90042-4702

Dear Charles And Ann:

We are thrilled to announce that the Southwest Museum of the American Indian and the Autry Museum have agreed to merge under the umbrella of the Autry National Center of the American West. The merger has been enthusiastically endorsed by all of our trustees and is being recognized locally and nationally as a truly historic opportunity, both to ensure the care and conservation of the Southwest's remarkable collection and to provide for greater public access through expanded and innovative programming.

The new Center will consist of the Southwest Museum, the Autry Museum, and the Institute for the Study of the American West. Each will be led by its own director who will manage the curatorial and collection activities and budgets of their respective entities. The Center will manage essential common functions such as accounting, development, membership, marketing, maintenance, security, and retail.

The merger will be finalized upon completion of a six-month planning process that will include the development of both a long-term master plan and integration strategies. The master plan will address the potential renovation of the historic Mt. Washington facilities and the redesign of some of the Autry's exhibition space. During this period, the museums will remain open to the public and members will receive free reciprocal admission and store discounts to both.

The Southwest and Autry have long been devoted to preserving and interpreting the complex history of the American West. The partnering of these institutions will deeply strengthen the work of both and strategically advance our shared vision and goals. Together, the Southwest and the Autry will elevate public knowledge in a way neither could do alone.

We look forward to keeping you informed of our progress and also to your participation in the process. **We would like to invite you to an informal discussion and coffee at the Autry Museum (4700 Western Heritage Way) on Saturday, February 8 at 11 a.m. Please call 323/667-2000 ext. 326 to RSVP.** We also encourage you to share your thoughts with us by visiting the Autry website at www.autry-museum.org and clicking on "contact us".

Thank you for your ongoing support.

With best regards,

Duane King,
Executive Director
Southwest Museum

John L. Gray
Executive Director
Autry Museum



Autry National Center

September 2007

To: Councilmember José Huizar
Fr: John Gray, President
Re: The Autry's Vision for the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe

On behalf of the Autry National Center I want to thank you for your leadership as we move forward in saving the Southwest Museum and its world class collection. The Autry has a strong vision for the future, and look forward to working with you and the Northeast Los Angeles community to realize our mutual goals.

In summary, we share the following commitments for the future of the Southwest Museum and the Casa de Adobe:

Expand and maintain the storage and public display of the Southwest Museum's collections in Mt. Washington

- Using Southwest collections, present the depth and breadth of the Southwest's collection with rotating exhibitions in the Sprague and Van Nuys Galleries. When possible, host traveling exhibitions relating to the multiple cultures of the Southwest.
- Refurbish the Plains and California Halls as public space. This will allow for more diverse educational, cultural, community and museum activities.
- Continue to store the portions of the collection that may be appropriately maintained at the Southwest Museum, such as archaeology and anthropology, and make them available to scholars, and by appointment, to the broader public.
- Beginning with the reopening of the Southwest Museum, establish regular public hours for the Museum's public spaces, consistent with museum standards for operations, by promoting the exhibitions and programs to a broad Los Angeles public.
- Maintain American Association of Museums accreditation for the Southwest Museum.
- Make available for public review at the Southwest Museum and on-line a photographic inventory of the Southwest collection.

Preserve and protect the Southwest Collection of priceless artifacts

- Save the Southwest collections from substandard conditions and deterioration.
- Store the collection in museum-standard storage.
- Clean, repair and catalog, including barcoding, the more than 250,000 artifacts that comprise the Southwest Museum collection.
- Make collections accessible to Native communities and the general public and audiences throughout the world by putting artifact records and images on a Collections On-Line website.

Preserve, rehabilitate and maintain the original historic Southwest Museum building and the Casa de Adobe

- Create a phased plan to systematically maintain and improve the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe over the next decade.

NOTE: The Autry has already invested more than \$5 million to save the collection and stabilize the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe, and is committed to the project's completion.

- As plans are finalized, publicly disseminate information about the rehabilitation.
- Conduct major repairs to the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe.
- Re-install the dioramas after the completion of the water proofing and the new delivery system of lighting to the tunnel.
- Stabilize the underlying structure that joins the Caracol Tower to the main building.
- Upgrade mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems.
- Conduct earthquake retrofitting, perform critical water mitigation work, and repair damages to Casa de Adobe kitchen and historic stove.
- Continue the water proofing and building improvements of the exterior of the building, such as the current Caracol Tower renovation that is taking place today.

- Create a campus that is handicapped accessible, by bringing the elevator to the second story of the Southwest Museum building, and upgrading the bathroom facilities.
- Improve the watering system, and stabilize the Hopi trail in the Ethno botanic gardens.

Expand the educational and programming activities of the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe

- Continue the Arroyo Seco Museum Science Magnet program for junior docents at the Casa de Adobe and then expand it to the Southwest Museum once refurbished.
- Establish appropriate educational programs for elementary schools students, including fourth graders, with emphasis on early California History and Native American Cultures.

Keep community members and stakeholders well-informed on plans and programming at the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe

- Provide monthly updates to the community on the rehabilitation of the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe through the SWMFuture.org site and corresponding email blasts.
- Continue attending community meetings and presenting new information about the rehabilitation of the Southwest building and preservation of the collection.
- Continue to include in the Autry's published materials all programming at the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe, such as *What's Next* and *Convergence Magazine*.

Autry National Center fundraising for Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe

The Autry's multi-million dollar fundraising to date includes:

- Raised over \$3 million from major foundations to support conservation and long-term care of collections.
- Raised over \$450,000 from the federal government for conservation of the collections through the Save America's Treasures grant. This was the highest grant amount given that year by this program.
- Raised over \$500,000 from the federal government for the Southwest's electronic catalogue, through grants from National Endowment for the Humanities and Institute of Museum and Library Services.

- Raised \$300,000 for the Southwest's electronic catalogue.
- Raised a grant of \$936,000 from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment to waterproof buildings.
- Raised over \$1 million in FEMA funds in 1994 for stabilization of the Southwest's buildings; funds were in peril of being lost as no work had been conducted prior to merger.
- Raised funds from the National Park Services to assist in creation of Historic Structures Report for Casa de Adobe.
- Raising \$160,000 from CCHE to create greater ADA accessibility through extension of the museum's only elevator. (Pending)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2009, the City of Los Angeles Board of Referred Powers conducted a hearing on the proposed amendment to the Autry National Center's Lease with the City of Los Angeles for the Griffith Park property;

WHEREAS, approval of the requested amendment to the Lease is necessary to permit the Autry to move forward with a proposed Griffith Park Improvement Project;

WHEREAS, Councilmember Jose Huizar requested that the Board of Referred Powers impose a condition on the amendment to the Lease requiring the Autry to enter into a legally binding commitment to fund in the future the museum at the Southwest facility in Mt. Washington and to make other commitments to the facility and the collection;

WHEREAS, the Autry representatives made it clear to the Board of Referred Powers that the Autry could not agree to any provision in the amendment to the Lease requiring the Autry to make any commitments, financial or otherwise, to the Southwest facilities and the collection;

WHEREAS, the Board of Referred Powers continued its consideration of the proposed Lease amendment and requested that the Autry negotiate with Councilman Huizar a legally binding commitment to prepare a master plan for the Southwest facility, to keep open the museum at the Southwest facility, to maintain exhibitions at the Southwest facility, and other matters;

WHEREAS, since merging with the Southwest in 2003, the Autry undertook an extensive effort to save the deteriorating Southwest facilities and collection and has spent millions on repairs and rehabilitation of the Southwest facilities and preserving the collection;

WHEREAS, in September 2007, the Autry announced with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Councilmember Huizar a decade-long series of initiatives to be undertaken voluntarily by the Autry with respect to the preservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of the Southwest facilities and the collection;

WHEREAS, since September 2007, in keeping with the series of initiatives, the Autry has expended and continues to expend substantial funds on the Southwest facility and the collection, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to the stewardship of the Southwest facilities and the collection;

WHEREAS, the Autry is extremely proud of its Griffith Park Improvement Project that would elevate the Autry museum in Griffith Park into a leading national museum and a premier Los Angeles cultural destination;

WHEREAS, the Autry is appreciative of the broad support for the Griffith Park Improvement Project that the Autry has received from virtually every Native American group, labor, the art and museum community, the Los Angeles Conservancy, the Chamber of Commerce, VICA and from many other organizations and community members;

WHEREAS, the Trustees have determined that, given a number of factors including the current economic environment, there is no realistic possibility of raising sufficient funds for operating the Southwest facilities in Mt. Washington as a museum in the manner requested by Councilmember Huizar and the Board of Referred Powers; and

WHEREAS, the Autry is a nonprofit corporation, and its Trustees owe a fiduciary obligation to ensure that the Autry does not make any contractual commitments, financial or otherwise, which would require the Autry to expend funds that it cannot guarantee can be raised and where such commitments would constrain the Autry's ability to preserve and enhance all of its assets, which it holds in charitable trust.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The Autry shall not agree to any condition or requirement imposed by the City of Los Angeles or any other third party on the Griffith Park Improvement Project or the amendment to the Lease, which requires the Autry to make any commitments, financial or otherwise, with respect to the Southwest facilities and collection in Mt. Washington.

Dated and agreed to this
15th day of July 2009



David W. Cartwright
Secretary, Board of Trustees

THE SOUTHWEST MUSEUM ISSUE: IT'S TIME FOR WIN-WIN

June 3, 2011

Honorable Councilmembers Tom LaBonge, Ed Reyes, and Herb Wesson
and all Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

The years 2003 through 2011 have been trying for the community members of Highland Park, home to Los Angeles' oldest museum and the \$1 Billion in Indian artifacts that used to be housed in the Southwest Museum. We felt the pain of seeing our famous museum go insolvent. We saw the Autry Museum of Western Heritage first as a friend in time of financial crisis and then as an adversary as they seemed to move from merger partner to cultural pirate. They have not lived up to the merger agreement they signed with the Southwest Museum in 2003. They have broken both the letter and intent of the agreement. They have now boldly announced that they wish to divest the venerable Southwest Museum facility to a nonprofit organization. In fact, they have secretly already tried to do that before.

Egos--"bigger than all outdoors"--have become part of the effort to move the \$1 Billion in Indian artifacts from Highland Park, its home for nearly 100 years, to the Autry complex in Griffith Park as part of the effort to make the Southwest and history itself disappear. Dollar signs are obscuring the vision of many as the City wrestles with the issue of what to do about the Autry and the Southwest.

The solution should be obvious: The Autry is the recipient of public assistance, having been built on City-owned land that costs it only \$1 per year. It also has a duty to honor its merger agreement with the Southwest Museum. The Southwest Museum is Los Angeles' oldest museum, deserving of a better fate than to have its collections pirated and its facilities given away to make it disappear. The people of Los Angeles must and should have input into this decision. And the decision should be fair to EVERYONE. No part of the City should feel it has had its icons stolen.

It's time for WIN-WIN. The Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition, a group that has been meeting in Highland Park once a week at 7:00 a.m. every week for years, have simply asked for what the people of Los Angeles expect: **KEEP THE SOUTHWEST OPEN AS AUTRY'S NO. 2 SITE AND DISPLAY AT LEAST SOME OF THE ARTIFACTS THERE ON A ROTATING BASIS. KEEP THE HISTORY OF THIS VENERABLE INSTITUTION IN THE EQUATION.** Make Autry's expansion conditional upon honoring its previous commitments, with an enforceability clause to continue the Southwest Museum as its second museum complex.

If everyone would take a deep breath, it would be clear even to the Autry Board of Directors that they would benefit as much from this arrangement as the Southwest. Two sites are better than one, and they would emerge as saviors of Los Angeles history with the accolades and support of so many more people of Los Angeles. It is time for this struggle to end and for all of the people of the City to support the Autry's preservation of our history. Please do not let this struggle end with the predictable "Money triumphs all" result.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Dyke, Ph.D.
Member of the Highland Park Community



Date: 6/3/11
Submitted in ARTS Committee
Council File No: 11-0884
Item No.: 6
~~Display:~~ Public Comment

City of Los Angeles, Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee - 3 June 2011

Item 1. 11-0884 Consideration of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' action of May 20, 2011, relative to the proposed renovations of existing exhibit galleries, outdoor area, restrooms, and associated improvements at the Autry National Center's Museum of the American West.

RECOMMEND: Rescind the Decision of the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners with regard to the Proposed Renovations at the Autry National Center, Griffith Pak Campus.

BACKGROUND

1. I have been employed and conducted research in five museums throughout the world for 12 years. I have been a research associate of the LA County Museum of Natural History, and I am a member of the Autry National Center, board member of the LA32 Neighborhood Council, NELA Coalition, and other organizations and strongly support the equal growth of both campuses of the ANC. I am against ANC's continuing refusal to live up to their Land and Merger Agreements. I recommend that the ANC provide full compliance with the terms and conditions of the Land Lease Agreement and its current amendments and of the 2003 Southwest Museum (SWM) Merger Agreement prior to the initiation of any new projects requiring discretionary considerations of the City of Los Angeles.
2. Previous and current proposals to modify the Griffith Campus and relocate portions of the SWM/Arroyo Seco Campus (SWM/ASC) collections to the Griffith Campus are not consistent with the Land Agreement and the Merger Agreement and, clearly, demonstrate a persistent and consistent pattern of contrivance and lack of transparency and community participation.
3. The proposed project contains the initial elements of the previously withdrawn program to relocate most if not all of the collections in the SWM/ASC, and the current decision process must be considered as piece-mealing or segmentation of one large project into many smaller steps in order to avoid required compliance with CEQA.
4. Submissions in support of project contain errors and omissions as to the character of the project; some storage facilities are mislabeled as galleries and are not available to the public. As-built drawings of all ANC facilities and any modifications are required by the Land Agreement but are not included in the current submission and have not been available in the files of the Board of Recreation and Parks (BR&P).
5. Department of Recreation and Parks has erroneously determined the proposed project represents a project of Categorical Exemption. This is in direct opposition to the City's own planning policies, to protect and maintain the Southwest Museum in its current and historic location (Northeast Community Plan).
6. As indicated by the failure to implement and withdrawal of a specific project for the entire relocation of the SWMC/ANC in the face of significant community controversy clearly supports the assumption of a smaller project to start the same activities would require environmental considerations based on demonstrated public controversy.
7. Actions by the BR&P were clearly discretionary and will require an amendment to Land Lease Agreement (4th) by the BR&P which is also discretionary.
8. Linkage of the environmental aspects, grant application, and collection relocation is clearly arranged to force the City and the Public and affected communities to allow the relocation rather than face the loss of the \$6M grant. I am greatly concern regarding the prospective loss of the grant but the ANC has demonstrated a lack of credibility and forth rightfulness.

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