

Communication from Public

Name: Christina Morris
Date Submitted: 08/07/2025 09:45 PM
Council File No: 16-0126-S1
Comments for Public Posting: The National Trust for Historic Preservation fully supports the motion to amend the Cultural Heritage Ordinance. Please see our attached comment letter.



National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation®

August 7, 2025

Re: Council File 16-0126-S1, Cultural Heritage Ordinance Amendment Process for Historic-Cultural Monuments, Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.171

Submitted via online public comment form

Chair Blumenfield and Members of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee,

The National Trust for Historic Preservation strongly supports the proposed motion to amend the City's Cultural Heritage Ordinance to create a new amendment process for Historic-Cultural Monuments that would allow for revisions that expand or enhance the statement of significance, period of significance, and designation criteria, as well as technical corrections.

As the nation's leading public-interest organization dedicated to preserving America's diverse historic places, the National Trust recognizes the power of place to revitalize communities, create healthier environments, and promote a more just civil society.

Los Angeles has long been a national leader in the recognition and designation of the places that tell the city's complex and diverse histories, undertaking groundbreaking projects like SurveyLA that have become models for other cities across the country. In spite of this innovative work, women's contributions to Los Angeles' history consistently have been omitted, with the result that only 2% of the over 1,300 Historic-Cultural Monuments are designated for the history and achievements of women. Women were architects, designers, owners, patrons, activists, business leaders, educators, and much more in these designated Monuments, yet the historic record excludes them. Some of L.A.'s most celebrated and recognizable places contain notable omissions.

In partnership with the Los Angeles Conservancy, the National Trust's *Where Women Made History* initiative launched "LA Women's Landmarks" last year, an ambitious project to ensure that women's contributions are recognized as a critical part of Los Angeles history. This includes creating a formal process to amend existing Historic-Cultural Monuments specifically for the purpose of adding missing diverse women's histories—and all underrecognized communities' histories—to create a more accurate and inclusive historical narrative.

By amending the Cultural Heritage Ordinance to allow for this type of amendment to existing Monuments, Los Angeles is once again at the forefront of innovative preservation practice by creating a new model of inclusive designation that can inspire other cities and commissions nationwide to follow Los Angeles' example.

The National Trust would like to express our gratitude to Councilmember Soto-Martinez for his leadership in initiating this amendment to the Cultural Heritage Ordinance, and we respectfully ask that you approve the motion. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Christina Morris, Senior Director of Preservation Programs and *Where Women Made History*,
Los Angeles

Communication from Public

Name: Catherine Gudis
Date Submitted: 08/07/2025 10:45 PM
Council File No: 16-0126-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I write to enthusiastically support the proposed motion that will create an amendment process for Historic-Cultural Monuments. This new amendment process will enable revisions to statements of significance, some of which were written decades ago and embed in the legal record both direct and indirect misogyny. By enabling technical corrections, and expansions of historical significance, this proposed motion will allow us to acknowledge and bring to public attention histories, especially regarding women, communities of color, working people, and LGBTQ+ individuals whose stories have not been amply recognized in past HCM nominations. In addition, the proposed motion will enable revisions to the periods of significance originally represented; this too is an important way to revise the historical designations as new information is uncovered. It will serve as a way to ensure that Los Angeles cultural monuments are representative, inclusive, and in keeping with scholarship and recognition of the experiences of a wide range of workers, residents, and others who have made the city what it is today. The proposed amendment comes after exhaustive research related to women's contributions to Los Angeles' history, which have been left out of the record, such that only 2% of the over 1,300 Historic-Cultural Monuments are designated for the history and achievements of women. Women wore many hats and played many roles in designated HCM. So have many other historically marginalized and erased people. Establishing a formal process to amend existing Historic-Cultural Monuments specifically for the purpose of adding missing diverse women's histories—and all underrecognized communities' histories--will create a more accurate, inclusive record and reparative history. Thank you for your support. Catherine Gudis, PhD Professor of History/Public History Home zip code: 90026

Communication from Public

Name: Sian Winship

Date Submitted: 08/08/2025 07:52 AM

Council File No: 16-0126-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly urge that the proposed motion to amend the City's Cultural Heritage Ordinance to create a new amendment process for Historic-Cultural Monuments be passed unanimously. This is an extremely important process by which the history of overlooked and underrepresented communities can be written into the record for future generations. In Spring of 2025, I taught the preservation of women's history to USC School of Architecture Heritage Conservation students. Our semester projects including researching and writing about the women's history that had been left out of the official records for the City's HCM. Eleven young students were shocked and appalled to find that Rae Eames was not associated with the designation of the Charles and Rae Eames house, that Ailine Barnsdall was overlooked in favor of Frank Lloyd Wright, and women pioneer real estate developers were simply assumed not to be important. In an era in which factual accuracy is harder and harder to come by, it is essential that the city create a process by which HCM nominations can be amended. In so doing, the city will be among the first municipalities in the nation to do so.

Communication from Public

Name: Evanne St. Charles

Date Submitted: 08/08/2025 08:47 AM

Council File No: 16-0126-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support the proposed motion to amend the City's Cultural Heritage Ordinance to create a new amendment process for Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCMs) that would allow for revisions that expand or enhance the statement of significance, period of significance, and designation criteria, as well as technical corrections. Women's contributions to Los Angeles' history consistently have been omitted, with the result that only 2% of the over 1,300 HCMs are designated for their association with the history and achievements of women. Women were architects, designers, owners, patrons, activists, business leaders, educators, and much more in these designated HCMs, yet the historic record excludes them. Establishing a formal process to amend existing HCMs specifically for the purpose of adding missing diverse women's histories—and all underrecognized communities' histories—will create a more accurate and inclusive historical record. By amending the Cultural Heritage Ordinance to allow for this type of amendment to existing HCMs, Los Angeles will once again be at the forefront of innovative preservation practice and will create a new model of inclusive designation that can inspire other cities and commissions nationwide.

Communication from Public

Name: Lindsay Mulcahy

Date Submitted: 08/08/2025 10:09 AM

Council File No: 16-0126-S1

Comments for Public Posting: The Los Angeles Conservancy is proud to support the motion submitted by Councilmember Soto-Martinez and Councilmember Jurado to update the Cultural Heritage Ordinance to create a process to amend existing Historic-Cultural Monuments (CFN 16-0126-S1). Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCMs) should reflect the diverse Angelenos who have – and continue to – shape our city. However, our landmarks fail to recognize BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and women’s heritage. For example, just over 2% of the 1,300 plus HCMs are dedicated to women’s history. To advance gender equity in historic preservation, the Conservancy partnered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Where Women Made History initiative to launch the “L.A. Women’s Landmarks” project in 2024. One of the project’s primary goals is to recognize women whose contributions have been overlooked or ignored in existing landmarks. Research conducted by L.A. Women’s Landmarks project intern and PhD candidate Arabella Delgado found a pattern of diminishment or erasure of women’s history in numerous HCMs. Notable examples include the Hollyhock House and Barnsdall Art Park, the Bradbury Building, and the Ray and Charles Eames House. Historic narratives have profound implications on our individual and collective identity. A formal amendment process will support the City and historic preservation advocates in telling L.A.’s full history so we may learn from it. Los Angeles has the opportunity to become the first city in the US to intentionally open the door for underrecognized histories to be added to existing nominations. We thank Councilmember Soto-Martinez and Councilmember Jurado for their leadership. Please consider us enthusiastic partners in this work.

August 8, 2025

Submitted Electronically

Planning & Land Use Management Committee
Los Angeles City Council
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Chair
Councilmember Heather Hutt
Councilmember John S. Lee
Councilmember Nithya Raman

**RE: Support for CF 16-0126-S1, Amendment Process to the
Historic-Cultural Monument Program**

Dear Chair Blumenfield and Members of the PLUM Committee:

The Los Angeles Conservancy is proud to support the motion submitted by Councilmember Soto-Martinez and Councilmember Jurado to update the Cultural Heritage Ordinance to create a process to amend existing Historic-Cultural Monuments (CFN [16-0126-S1](#)).

Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCMs) should reflect the diverse Angelenos who have – and continue to – shape our city. However, our landmarks fail to recognize BIPOC, LGTBQ+ and women’s heritage. For example, just over 2% of the 1,300 plus HCMs are dedicated to women’s history.

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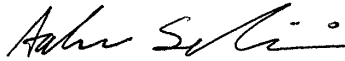
About the Los Angeles Conservancy:

The Los Angeles Conservancy is the largest local historic preservation organization in the United States, with nearly 5,000 members throughout the Los Angeles area. Established in 1978, the Conservancy works to preserve and revitalize the significant architectural and cultural heritage of Los Angeles County through advocacy and education.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 430-4217 or asalimian@laconservancy.org should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Andrew Salimian



Director of Advocacy

Cc: Emma Howard, Council District 13

Cc: Kevin Ocubillo, Council District 14

