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ARTS, PARKS, LIBRARIES, AND  
COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

## MOTION

Adopted in 1962, the City's Cultural Heritage Ordinance was one of the first landmark preservation laws adopted by a major American city. The Ordinance created the Cultural Heritage Commission (then "Board"), and the process for the designation of new Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCM). Since that time, over 1,300 Historic-Cultural Monuments have been designated that preserve and recognize the City's cultural and architectural heritage.


Over the past ten years, the Department of City Planning's Office of Historic Resources has developed a citywide historic context statement which serves as the blueprint for identifying and analyzing under which theme a property may be significant. In addition to themes such as Architecture and Engineering, Commercial Development, and Cultural Landscapes, Ethnic-Cultural Context Statements were developed on matters covering, but not limited to, Women's Rights in Los Angeles; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender history in Los Angeles; Asian Americans in Los Angeles; and African American History of Los Angeles. These context statements brought to light that properties in Los Angeles may have multiple layers of history. Historic-Cultural Monument nominations submitted prior to the development of these context statements could not take advantage of this additional research, and therefore, may not always tell the full story of why an HCM may be significant.

In 2023, the National Park Service created a process to amend properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places to more accurately present a property's historic significance. While there is an established process to make alterations to designated Historic-Cultural Monuments, the City's Cultural Heritage Ordinance currently does not include a comparable process for amending existing designations to add new historic contextual information, periods of significance, or improve more minimal property descriptions.

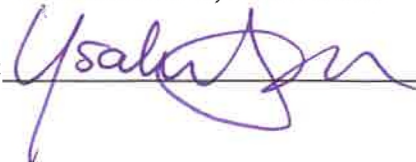
An update to the Cultural Heritage Ordinance is necessary to allow for amendments to existing Historic-Cultural Monument designations that may include substantive amendments that add a criterion or expand a statement of significance. In some instances, there may also be the need for a geographical boundary change, or technical amendment to correct administrative errors, or a revised property description.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Council instruct the Planning Department, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare and present a proposed ordinance to amend the Cultural Heritage Ordinance (Administrative Code Section 22.171 of Article 1, Chapter 9, Division 22) to create an amendment process for existing Historic-Cultural Monuments that will allow for: 1) revisions that add to or enhance the statement of significance, period of significance, and designation criteria; 2) technical corrections; and 3) geographical boundary changes.

PRESENTED BY:

  
HUGO SOTO-MARTINEZ  
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



MAY 23 2025

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