



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

January 7, 2026

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Dr. Laura Dominguez to the Cultural Heritage Commission for the term ending June 30, 2028.

I certify that in my opinion Dr. Dominguez is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon her, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Dr. Dominguez will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Gail Kennard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass".

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: **Laura Dominguez**
Commission: **Cultural Heritage Commission**
End of Term: **6/30/2028**

Appointee Information

- 1. Race:** Latinx
- 2. Gender:** female
- 3. Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 13 - Central
- 4. Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
- 5. Prior commission experience:**
- 6. Highest level of education completed:** Doctor of Philosophy, University of Southern California, Department of History
- 7. Occupation/profession:** Postdoctoral Scholar & Research Associate, University of Southern California - Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute
- 8. Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
- 9. Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment
- 10. Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
Rubio, Ethel	Central	5	API	F	6/30/2030
Buelna, Pilar	East LA	1	Latinx	F	6/30/2029
VACANT					6/30/2028
Milofsky, Barry	East LA	13	Caucasian	M	6/30/2027
Barron, Richard	East LA	1	Caucasian	M	6/30/2026

Laura A. Dominguez, Ph.D.
October 2025

Education

August 2023 Doctor of Philosophy, University of Southern California, Department of History
Dissertation: “Memory Makers: Tracing Race, Heritage, and Repair in Los Angeles, 1781-2012”
Fields: U.S. History; Western History; Critical Heritage Studies
Committee: Dr. William Deverell (chair), Dr. Natalia Molina, Dr. George Sánchez, and Trudi Sandmeier

May 2012 Master of Historic Preservation, USC School of Architecture
Thesis: “Este lugar sí importa: Heritage Conservation in Unincorporated East Los Angeles”

May 2010 Bachelor of Arts, Columbia College, Columbia University in the City of New York
The History and Theory of Architecture, Department of Art History & Archaeology

Professional & Public Humanities Experience (select)

2025- *Postdoctoral Scholar & Research Associate, USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute*
Collaborates with scholars, curators, and community educators on public humanities programming associated with the *LA2026* initiative, a National Endowment for the Humanities-funded project focused on regional engagement with the U.S. Semiquincentennial. Key responsibilities include: coordinating participatory humanities events with partner institutions; managing project website; building relationships with local communities; co-curating select exhibition content; and mentoring graduate and undergraduate student workers.

2025- *Advisor, The Latinx Freedom Movement Archive & Exhibit Project*
Serves as a subject-matter expert on a Mellon Foundation-funded public humanities initiative highlighting the civil rights struggles of Latinas/os/xs in the twentieth-century. Key responsibilities include: advising Los Angeles-based curator on exhibition themes and research topics; building relationships with institutional collaborators; engaging movement leaders; providing feedback on exhibition content and design; and supporting national project coordinators.

2024- *Sub-Consultant, HistoricPlacesLA Revealed: Reimagining Historic Markers for the 21st Century*
Serves as a Latino/a/x history subject-matter expert and community engagement advisor for an in-progress documentation and interpretation project sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources and managed by Page & Turnbull (lead consultant). Key tasks include: co-convening the Community Advisory Committee; proposing strategies for community participation and relationship-building; evaluating proposed historic sites; and curating historical content for physical markers and digital storytelling.

2023-2025	<i>NPS Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow, American Conservation Experience</i> Served as the “New Perspectives in Transcontinental Railroad (TCRR) History” Fellow in the Intermountain Regional Office of the National Park Service. Key responsibilities included: partnership development with descendant communities, Tribal Nations, scholars, curators, and other community-based experts; evaluation of existing and proposed interpretive programs in relation to current scholarship; and preparation of TCRR historical study and associated National Historic Landmark application. Equivalent to GS-11 in federal service.
2014-2017	<i>Preservation Coordinator/Preservation Manager, Los Angeles Conservancy</i> Advocated for preservation of historic resources in Los Angeles County, with a specific focus on collaborating with historically excluded communities. Key accomplishments included: managing multi-year LGBTQ+ Historic Places in L.A. project and short film series; authoring and supporting landmark nominations associated with women’s history; building capacity among community advocates through technical assistance and educational workshops; spearheading the organization’s first DEI task force; and supervising Getty Marrow Interns.
2012-2014	<i>Communications and Programs Manager, San Francisco Heritage</i> Co-produced educational programs for youth and adult audiences and oversaw editorial content, branding, and media relations. Key accomplishments included: developing the first public campaign for legacy businesses and cultural heritage assets in the U.S., including a digital mapping and storytelling subject site; managing the “Discover SF! Youth Heritage Program” in partnership with the National Park Service and Filipino American Development Foundation; and co-authoring the award-winning policy report, “Sustaining San Francisco’s Living History.”
2011-2012	<i>Library Assistant II, Getty Research Institute</i> Applied knowledge of GRI archival standards and special collections policies to mid-century modern architectural collections. Key tasks included: physical processing and arrangement of the materials; drafting of item descriptions and production of finding aids; and basic conservation tasks.
2009	<i>Getty Intern, City of Los Angeles, Office of Historic Resources</i> Served as a summer Getty Multicultural Undergraduate Intern (now Getty Marrow Undergraduate Internship Program). Key tasks included: working with department leadership to prepare staff reports for the Cultural Heritage Commission; assisting with site documentation and coordination of public meetings; and contributing research to the citywide historic context statement.

Publications

Book Chapters

2024	(Under review) “Cultivating Curandera Conservationists: The Movement for Latinx Heritage.” Co-authored with Desiree Aranda. In <i>Beyond Aesthetics and Exclusion</i> , ed. by Kathleen Powers Conti and Frank Ordia.
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Peer-Reviewed Articles

2024 “Settling the Ghosts of Old Chinatown: The Ta Chiu Festival in 19th Century Los Angeles.” *Southern California Quarterly* 106, no. 3 (2024).

2021 “Courtyard Sisters: Settler Fantasy and Experiment at the International Institute of Los Angeles, 1914-1940.” *Western Historical Quarterly* 52, no. 4 (2021).

2016 “Este lugar si importa: Identity and Heritage Conservation in East Los Angeles.” *California History* 93, no. 3 (2016).

Book and Public History Reviews

2021 (submitted) Review of *West of Jim Crow: The Fight Against California's Color Line*, by Lynn M. Hudson. *Southern California Quarterly*.

2019 Public History Review, “American Latinos and the Making of the United States.” Co-authored with Sarah Zenaida Gould. *Journal of American History* 106, no. 3 (2019).

2019 Review of *A City for Children: Women, Architecture, and the Charitable Landscapes of Oakland, 1850-1950*, by Marta Gutman. *California History* 96, no. 2 (2019).

Public Scholarship

2024 “Knowing and Grieving Two Massacres.” *Alta Journal*, vol. 29. Fall 2024.
<https://www.altaonline.com/dispatches/a61986577/chinese-immigrant-massacres-los-angeles-wyoming>.

2021 “Reckoning with a Settler Historian. Or, Why I Struggled to Write about James Miller Guinn.” *The Institute on California & the West Blog*. July 8, 2021.
<https://icwblog.wordpress.com/2021/07/08/reckoning-with-a-settler-historian/>

2021 “How Two African American Artists Explored the Roots of Racism on the West Coast.” *KCET: Lost LA*. May 25, 2021.
<https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/golden-state-mutual-roots-of-racism-on-the-west-coast>.

2021 “Architect Paul R. Williams.” Photographs by Janna Ireland. *Past Due: Report and Recommendations of the Los Angeles Mayor's Office Civic Memory Working Group*. April 2021.
<https://civicmemory.la>.

2019 “Bordered Lands and Remembered Places.” *The Institute on California & the West Blog*. August 21, 2019.
<https://icwblog.wordpress.com/2019/08/21/bordered-lands-and-remembered-places/>.

2019 “Trump’s Stance on National Monuments is Straight Out of the 19th Century.” *Los Angeles Times*. February 22, 2019.
<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-dominguez-antiquities-act-trump-monuments-20190222-story.html>.

2017 “How the Remnant of a Mexican Rancho Became an LGBTQ Landmark.” *KCET: Lost LA*. February 27, 2017.
<https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/west-hollywoods-plummer-park-and-great-hallong-hall-landmarks-of-hiv aids-activism>.

2017 “The Woman’s Building: L.A.’s “Feminist Mecca.”” *KCET: Lost LA*. February 21, 2017. <https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/the-womans-building-las-feminist-mecca>.

2017 “Jewel’s Catch One: A Haven for the Black LGBTQ Community.” *KCET: Lost LA*. February 15, 2017.
<https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/jewels-catch-one-a-haven-for-the-black-lgbtq-community>.

2017 “LGBTQ Activism Started Here: L.A. and the Black Cat Protests of 1967.” *KCET: Lost LA*. February 11, 2017.
<https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/the-black-cat-harbinger-of-lgbtq-civil-rights>.

2014 “Sustaining San Francisco’s Living History: Strategies for Conserving Cultural Heritage Assets.” Policy Report for San Francisco Heritage (September 2014).
<https://www.sfheritage.org/cultural-heritage>.

Government/Consulting

2024- (In-progress) *First U.S. Transcontinental Railroad Thematic Study* (title to be determined), prepared under the NPS Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program for the National Park Service. Washington, D.C.
 Co-authored with Dr. Jonathan Fairchild

2024- (Forthcoming) “Brief Description of the Program: Historic Context” in *Transcontinental Railroad Program Study and Implementation Plan*, prepared under the NPS Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program for the National Park Service. Washington, DC.

2021-2023 (In-progress) *Memorial to the Victims of the 1871 Chinese Massacre*, consultation with Sze Tsung Nicolás Leong, Judy Chui-Hua Chung, and 1871 Memorial Steering Committee

Historic landmark nominations

2025 (Under review) National Register of Historic Places nominations for Rock Springs and Evanston, Wyoming Chinese Labor Communities
 Co-authored with Dr. Dudley Gardner and Dr. Laura Ng

2024- (In-progress) National Historic Landmark nomination for Rock Springs and Evanston, Wyoming Chinese Labor Communities
 Co-authored with Dr. Dudley Gardner and Dr. Laura Ng

2024 Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for Clinton Manor Courtyard Apartments (designated 2025)
 Co-authored with Nichole Smith (Clinton Manor Coalition)

2019-2020 Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for the International Institute of Los Angeles (designated 2020)
Co-authored with M. Rosalind Sagara (Los Angeles Conservancy)

2016-2017 National Register of Historic Places nomination for Pan American Bank of East Los Angeles (designated 2017)
Solo author

Awards and Fellowships

October 2024 Western History Association
Beverly Purrington/Richard White Dissertation Prize

2017-2023 Del Amo Foundation
Del Amo Doctoral Fellowship

2017-2023 University of Southern California
Diversity, Inclusion and Access Fellowship

June 2023 Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant

October 2022 Western History Association
Bert Fireman and Janet Fireman Award

2020-2021 Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts “and Sciences
USC Mellon Humanities & the University of the Future Ph.D. Fellowship

2020-2021 University of Southern California, Department of History
Lois W. Banner Award

2018-2019 University of Southern California, Department of History
Roberta Persinger Foulke Endowment Fellowship (summer)

2022; 2020 University of Southern California, Department of History
2019; 2018 Roberta Persinger Foulke Endowment Fellowship (summer)

November 2015 California Office of Historic Preservation
Governor’s Award for Historic Preservation for “Sustaining San Francisco’s Living History” Policy Report (shared award)

November 2015 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation for “DiscoverSF! Youth Heritage Program” (shared award)

May 2012 USC School of Architecture
Master of Historic Preservation Thesis Award

November 2011 National Trust for Historic Preservation

Diversity Scholar, PastForward National Preservation Conference

2010-2012	USC School of Architecture Merit Scholarship, Master of Historic Preservation Program
May 2010	Columbia College, Columbia University in the City of New York Cum Laude, Departmental Honors for Undergraduate Thesis (Department of Art History and Archaeology)
2006-2010	Columbia College, Columbia University in the City of New York John W. Kluge Scholar, Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program

Presentations

Plenary and Keynote Presentations

Oct. 2025	GreenLatinos, CA Urban Greening & Conservation Convergence (Los Angeles, CA) <i>Invited Presentation:</i> “Place-Keeping in Latino Los Angeles: How We Preserve Our Stories in the Age of Erasure”
April 2024	National Park Service, Intermountain Region Resources Training (Lakewood, CO) <i>Invited Presentation:</i> “Retracing Land, Lives, and Labor: The Transcontinental Railroad as a Constellation of American Memory”
Feb. 2023	Colorado Preservation, Inc., Saving Places Conference (Boulder, CO) <i>Invited Presentation:</i> “Repair, Not Replace: What Memory Keepers in the West Teach Us about Preservation Justice”

Roundtables and Workshops

July 2025	Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, Summer Symposium (virtual) <i>Presentation:</i> “Not a Road, but a Web of Relationships: Reflections on the “New Perspectives in Transcontinental Railroad History” Fellowship”
May 2025	California Preservation Foundation, Annual Conference (Sacramento, CA) <i>Roundtable Moderator:</i> “Uncovering California’s Underrecognized Heritage: Case Examples from a New CPF Program”
Dec. 2024	NPS Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, Winter Symposium: “Public Humanities in Action: Lessons in Community-Engaged Collaboration” (virtual) <i>Roundtable:</i> “Unraveling Official Stories through Collaborative Processes”
Aug. 2024	Latinos in Heritage Conservation, Congreso (San Diego, CA) <i>Roundtable Moderator:</i> “Power of Community Healing: Decolonizing Systems”
April 2024	National Council on Public History, Annual Conference (Salt Lake City, UT) <i>Working Group:</i> “Beyond Tunnel Vision: Recovering the Hidden Stories of the Transcontinental Railroad” (co-facilitator)

Feb. 2024 Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West, “Considering Anew Series”
Roundtable: “Revisiting *Bound for Freedom*: Recent Histories of Black L.A.”

Nov. 2023 California Preservation Foundation (virtual)
“Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation Bootcamp”
Commentator: Equity and Accessibility Break-Out Session

Oct. 2023 Western History Association, Annual Conference (Los Angeles, CA)
Roundtable Moderator: “Commemorations, History and Public Space: Reflections on the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office Civic Memory Working Group

April 2022 Latinos in Heritage Conservation, Congreso (Denver, CA)
Roundtable: “Documenting and Democratizing Latinx Heritage”

July 2021 Dismantle Preservation Unconference (virtual)
Roundtable: “PhDs Place in Preservation”

June 2021 California Preservation Foundation, Annual Conference (virtual)
Roundtable Moderator: “Telling the Whole Story: Histories of Violence, Racial Justice, and Heritage Conservation”

March 2021 National Council on Public History, Annual Conference (virtual)
Roundtable: “Reimagining Preservation and Its Discontents: Mobilizing People and the Power of Story”

March 2019 Los Angeles Conservancy, Women’s History Month Panel (Los Angeles, CA)
Roundtable: “Women Who Build, Preserve, and Activate Los Angeles’s Historic Spaces”

Oct. 2017 USC School of Architecture, Heritage Conservation Anniversary Symposium (Los Angeles, CA)
Roundtable Moderator: “Telling a More Complete Story: Heritage Conservation and Social Justice”

July 2016 Getty Foundation, Multicultural Undergraduate Internship Annual Arts Summit (Los Angeles, CA)
Invited Commentator: “Next Generation Heritage Conservation in L.A.”

Nov. 2015 National Trust for Historic Preservation, PastForward National Preservation Conference (Washington, DC)
Roundtable Organizer and Speaker: “Latinos in Heritage Conservation: A National Partner”

April 2015 California Preservation Foundation, Annual Conference (San Diego, CA)
Mobile Workshop Leader: “Mobilizing for Community-Driven Action: Latino-Based Preservation Initiatives”

Nov. 2014	National Trust for Historic Preservation, PastForward National Preservation Conference (Savannah, GA) <i>Roundtable Organizer and Speaker:</i> “Latinos in Heritage Conservation: Building a National Network”
<u>Papers Presented</u>	
Oct. 2025	Western History Association, Annual Conference (Albuquerque, NM) <i>Panel:</i> “New Perspectives in Western National Parks” <i>Paper:</i> “Iron Tracks and Constellations: Unearthing Relational Stories of the Transcontinental Railroad
March 2024	NPS Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, “Toward New Horizons in Education, Interpretation & Engagement” (virtual convening) <i>Panel:</i> “Engaging Indigenous Partners and Descendant Communities” <i>Paper:</i> “Whose Labor, on Whose Land? Retreading the Story of the Transcontinental Railroad with Ancestral Knowledge”
April 2023	Organization of American Historians, Annual Conference (Los Angeles, CA) <i>Panel:</i> “Los Angeles: Past and Present” <i>Paper:</i> “Settling the Ghosts of Old Chinatown: Violence and the Ta Chiu Festival in 19 th -Century Los Angeles”
April 2021	Organization of American Historians, Annual Conference (virtual) <i>Panel:</i> “Spaces for Learning: Civic Engagement in the Classroom and in Public Sites of Memory” <i>Paper:</i> “The Changing Voices of the Preservation Movement”
Jan. 2021 symposium)	University of Maryland, School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation “Re-Centering the Margins: Justice and Equity in Historic Preservation” (virtual) <i>Panel:</i> “Case Studies from the Field: The Intersection of Community Development & Preservation Planning” <i>Paper:</i> “Still Here in a Changing City: The Origins of San Francisco’s Legacy Business Program”
Aug. 2020	Pacific Coast Branch, American Historical Association, Annual Conference (virtual) <i>Panel:</i> “New Approaches to Professional Development in Graduate School: Cultivating Inclusion, Respect, and Responsiveness in History Graduate Programs” <i>Paper:</i> “Imposter Syndrome No More: Unlearning Unconscious Bias in Graduate Programs”
Oct. 2019	Western History Association, Annual Conference (Las Vegas, NV) <i>Panel:</i> “Placemaking and Wayfinding: Signaling the Past through Public History” <i>Paper:</i> “Courtyard Sisters: Sustaining Los Angeles’ Progressive Landscape”
Aug. 2019	Western Histories in the Making: Graduate Student Workshop, Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West (Los Angeles, CA)

Paper: “Courtyard Sisters: Interpreting Progressivism at the International Institute of Los Angeles”

Feb. 2019 Historical Society of Southern California, Annual Conference (Northridge, CA)
Panel: “Institution Building in Progressive Era California”
Paper: “Courtyard Sisters: Settler Fantasy and Experiment at the International Institute of Los Angeles, 1914-1940”

April 2018 Western Association of Women Historians, Annual Conference (Davis, CA)
Panel: “From Spanish Fantasy Past to the American Dream”
Paper: “We Dedicate This House: Settler Fantasy and Experiment at the International Institute of Los Angeles, 1914-1940”

May 2017 California Preservation Foundation, Annual Conference (Pasadena, CA)
Paper: “Preserving California’s Latinx Heritage: Pan American Bank of East Los Angeles”

Oct. 2015 Deep L.A. Graduate History Conference, Huntington Library (San Marino, CA)
Paper: “Este lugar sí importa: Cultural Memory and Heritage Conservation in East L.A.”

Jan. 2013 California State University, Los Angeles, Department of Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies (Los Angeles, CA)
Panel: “Barrio Spaces, Historic Places: Preserving the Heritage of East Los Angeles”
Paper: “Grassroots Conservation and the Eastside Heritage Consortium”

Public-Facing Talks

Nov. 2024 Alta Journal and Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West (San Marino, CA)
Special Event: “Reckoning with the West”
In Conversation: Lynell George and Laura Dominguez

April 2024 California Preservation Foundation
Mentorship Webinar Series
Featured Speaker: “Career Paths for Scholars and Advocates”

May 2023 Conservation Association of Los Angeles, Inaugural Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)
Invited Presentation: “From Multiculturalism to Racial Justice: Rethinking Repair in L.A. Conservation”

March 2019 Boyle Heights Historical Society (Los Angeles, CA)
Invited Presentation: “Preserving the International Institute of Los Angeles”

April 2016 National Parks Conservation Association (Los Angeles, CA)
“Telling America’s Story: Creating Equality in the National Parks System”
Invited Presentation: “Preserving LGBTQ Historic Places in Los Angeles”

Nov. 2015 ONE Archives at the USC Libraries (Los Angeles, CA)

“Curating the City: LGBTQ Historic Places in L.A.”
Invited Presentation: “California Pride: Mapping LGBTQ Histories”

Oct. 2013 National Park Service, Latino Legacy Forum (East Los Angeles, CA)
Invited Tour Leader and Speaker: “Preserving Chicana/o Heritage in East Los Angeles”

March 2012 California Cultural and Historical Endowment, Community Conversation (Santa Ana, CA)
Invited Presentation: “Survey of Important Places in East L.A.”

July 2017 National Park Service and Hispanic Access Foundation, Webinar Series (virtual)
Invited Panelist: “Trends in Latino Heritage Conservation: Advocacy and Education”

May 2017 Asian and Pacific Islanders in Historic Preservation, Community Symposium (Los Angeles, CA)
Invited Panelist: “Advocacy and Partnerships in Preservation”

Nov. 2016 Latinos in Heritage Conservation, Reunión (Houston, TX)
Presentation: “Latino/a Heritage Conservation: The Road Ahead”

Oct. 2016 City of Los Angeles, Annual Planning Day (Los Angeles, CA)
Tour Leader: “Garden Apartments in Boyle Heights”

Guest Lectures

May 2025 USC School of Architecture (Los Angeles, CA)
Heritage Conservation Summer Program
Invited Presentation: “Collaborating with Community: Conservation Policy and Planning III”

April 2024 Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (Los Angeles, CA)
Invited Presentation: “Memory Makers and Co-Creators: The Long History and Future of Reparative Storytelling in Los Angeles”

Aug. 2022 History Colorado (Denver, CO)
Lunch and Learn Series (virtual)
Invited Presentation: “Democratizing and Documenting Latinx Heritage: What East Los L.A. Teaches Us about a National Movement”

Nov. 2022 USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Thematic Option (virtual)
“Los Angeles: A Polymathic Inquiry” (CORE 450)
Invited Presentation: “Civic Memory in the City of Angels”

April 2021 California State University Northridge, Department of History (virtual)
“Selected Topics in Public History” (HIST 596)
Invited Presentation: “Historic Preservation in Los Angeles”

Jan. 2021 University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Chicana/o and Central American Studies (virtual)

	“Barrio Suburbanization” (138B) <i>Invited Presentation: “Latinos and Historic Preservation”</i>
Nov. 2020	Los Angeles Service Academy, Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West (virtual) <i>Invited Presentation: “Civic Memory in Los Angeles”</i>
Nov. 2020	University of California, Riverside, Department of History (virtual) “Historic Preservation and the Politics of Place” (HIST 260) <i>Invited Panelist: “Race, Place, and Storyscape”</i>
April 2020	USC School of Architecture, Heritage Conservation Program (virtual) “Heritage Conservation Planning and Policy” (ARCH 550) <i>Invited Presentation: “Conserving San Francisco’s Cultural Heritage Assets”</i>
March 2020	USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Department of History (Los Angeles, CA) “Race in America” (HIST 211) <i>Invited Presentation: “New Migrants, Part III: Mexican Migration”</i>
Nov. 2019	USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Department of History (Los Angeles, CA) “History of California” (HIST 240) <i>Invited Presentation: “The Chicano Movement in California”</i>
April 2019	USC Sol Price School of Public Policy (Los Angeles, CA) “Housing and Land Use in Rapidly Urbanizing Regions” (PPDE 635) <i>Invited Presentation: “Conserving San Francisco’s Cultural Heritage Assets”</i>
Nov. 2018	Southern California Edison (Rosemead, CA) <i>Invited Presentation: “Childhood and the Electrification of Southern California”</i>

Teaching Experience

2018-2020	University of Southern California, Department of History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HIST 211gp: Race in America (Teaching Assistant) ● HIST 240gp: History of California (Teaching Assistant) ● HIST 100mg: The American Experience (Teaching Assistant)
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Additional Research Experience

2019-2023	Research Assistant to Professor Natalia Molina University of Southern California, Department of American Studies and Ethnicity
2021	Research Assistant Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West Chinatown History Project

2021	Research Assistant Smithsonian Institute, National Museum of American History “50 Years of Chicanas Changing Knowledge” project
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Research and Teaching Interests

North American West
Southern California
Chicana/o/x History
Borderlands History
Immigration History
Relational Ethnic Studies
Critical Heritage Studies
Architectural History
Public History
Digital Humanities

Public and Professional Service

2024	NPS Office of Commemorations and Anniversaries Member, America 250 Latino Heritage in the Parks Working Group
2025-	California Preservation Foundation (San Francisco, CA) Member, Nominating Committee Member, Executive Search Committee Member, Strategic Planning Committee
2024-	Member, Higher Education Committee Humanities Advisor, Doors Open California Committee
2023-2024	Member, Advocacy Committee
2023-	Member, Board of Trustees
2020-2021	Member, Annual Conference Program Committee (virtual)
2025	Latinos in Heritage Conservation (nationwide) Vice Chair, Executive Committee Member, Endangered Latinx Landmarks task force Member, La Herencia Grants Program task force Member, Congreso 2026 Planning Committee
2023-2024	Member, Congreso 2024 Planning Committee
2023-	Member, Governance Committee
2020-	Member, Board of Directors
2020-2023	Chair, Education Committee
2020-2023	Member, Advocacy Committee
2018-2020	Communications Chair
2014-2018	Founding Co-Chair, Executive Committee
2022-2023	Western History Association

2023 Conference Local Arrangements Committee

2019-2021	City of Los Angeles Civic Memory Working Group Member of Working Group, Processes Sub-Committee, and Sites & Themes Sub-Committee
2019-2020	Boyle Heights Community Partners (Los Angeles, CA) Researcher (International Institute of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument application) and Organizational Mentor
2018	Boyle Heights Museum (Los Angeles, CA) Grant Writer
2011-2012	Eastside Heritage Consortium (East Los Angeles, CA) Research Coordinator
2010-2012	Columbia Alumni Representative Committee (Los Angeles, CA) Member, Southern California Chapter

Other Professional Affiliations

2024-	Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West, Affiliated Scholar
2020-	Organization of American Historians, Member
2018-	Western History Association, Member

Continuing Education

Fall 2024	American Association for State and Local History Project Management for History Professionals (virtual course)
Dec. 2023	Indiana University & Eppley Center for Parks and Public Lands Foundations of Interpretation (virtual)
Aug. 2023-	NPS Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Digital Humanities and the NPS (virtual series, ongoing) Trauma Informed Practices in Historical Research (virtual workshop series)
Fall 2020	USC Mellon Humanities and the University of the Future “Map It Out” Workshop (virtual)
Aug. 2020	USC Humanities in a Digital World GIS and Spatial Humanities Boot Camp (virtual)
Feb. 2018	University of California, Berkeley, Oral History Center at The Bancroft Library Introduction to Oral History Workshop

Media Appearances and Interviews

2025 Marianne Dhenin, “Preserving America’s Full History.” *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, Fall 2025,
<https://ssir.org/articles/entry/latinx-historic-preservation-nonprofit>.

2023 Greg Hernandez, “Five first-generation Latina doctoral candidates bonded over Zoom during pandemic.” *USC News*, May 9, 2023.

2023 Susan Turner-Lowe, “Time Traveling in Gloria Molina’s Papers,” *Verso*, April 4, 2023,
<https://huntington.org/verso/time-traveling-gloria-molinas-papers>.

2022 William Deverell and Laura Dominguez, “L.A. Chinatown: The Memory of a Massacre.” *Western Edition*. May 31, 2022. Podcast, 00:38:00,
<https://dornsife.usc.edu/icw/podcast/>

2022 Laura Dominguez and Cindy Olnick, “Tabula Raza: A New Table for People-Centered Conservation.” *Save As: NextGen Heritage Conservation*. April 21, 2022. Podcast, 00:34:00, <https://sites.usc.edu/saveas/category/season-2/>

2020 Gustavo Arellano, “In L.A., not every moral crusade over real estate is Darth Vader versus Luke Skywalker,” *Los Angeles Times*, November 15, 2020

2018 Teresa Watanabe, “USC students explore civil rights, national security in university’s first history class on WWII internment,” *Los Angeles Times*, February 19, 2018.

Languages

English (Native)
Spanish (Conversational)



January 7, 2026

Dear Dr. Dominguez:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you of your appointment to the Cultural Heritage Commission for the term ending June 30, 2028, subject to confirmation by the Los Angeles City Council.

On behalf of the people of Los Angeles, thank you for your willingness to serve. Our boards and commissions are a vital part of the City's governance, and your leadership and expertise will play an important role in shaping the future of Los Angeles.

To move forward, there are a few steps you must complete prior to the Council's consideration of your appointment. My Commission Affairs team has prepared an attached checklist with deadlines and submission instructions, and they are available to support you throughout the confirmation process.

Once again, congratulations, and thank you for your commitment to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass".

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment I
Dr. Laura Dominguez
January 7, 2026

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days of appointment:

- Submit the completed forms, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org OR mail them to:

Office of the Mayor
Attn: Luz Portillo
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

 - Remuneration Form
 - Undated Separation Letters (2)
- Schedule a fingerprinting appointment to complete your background check.
 - The Commissions team will connect you with the Personnel Background Unit.
- Complete and file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700).
- Submit the CEC Form 60 (Ethics Clearance Form) to the City Ethics Commission.
 - The City Council cannot act on your nomination until the Ethics Department receives and submits your filings.
 - Note: you will be required to submit the same forms again after you are sworn in

II. Council Member Meetings:

You may be asked to meet with Councilmembers prior to your hearings.

- Your City Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martínez
- Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Chair of the Council Committee, considering your nomination

III. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- Planning and Land Use Management Committee Hearing
 - The Clerk's office will contact you once your item has been scheduled.
- Full Council Hearing and Oath of Office
 - The Clerk's office will contact you once your item has been scheduled.

V. Standing Requirements

- Notify the Commissions team of any changes in address or contact information.
- If you wish to resign, you must submit a resignation letter to myr-commissions@lacity.org.