

2018 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

City of West Hollywood Commercial Historic Resources Survey, Context Statement, and Preservation Website



The City of West Hollywood Historic Resources Preservation project included a commercial and nonresidential survey of properties constructed between the town's founding in 1895 and 1975, a historic context statement covering the period from 1895 to 1984 (when the City was incorporated), and a new historic preservation website (wehopreservation.org) with a live-updated and searchable database.

The purpose of the survey was to update the inventory of commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings throughout the city according to current best practices. Evaluation of these zones last occurred with the City's original 1986-1987 citywide survey, and the properties identified through this project included a vast range from late 19th century streetcar development to modern high-rise office towers. The project documented West Hollywood's unique arts and entertainment history, from the music venues of the Sunset Strip to the art galleries of the La Cienega design district. Resources also represented its history as a center of the LGBTQ community from nascent civil rights activism to the AIDS crisis.

Concurrent with the development of the historic context statement and completion of the historic resources survey, this project also integrated technology to move away from paper-based documents often restricted in their availability and access. The goal was to make information about the city's historic preservation programs more readily available to the public. The project accomplished this through the development of a new historic preservation website that includes information in the form of an easily searchable database and map, greatly increasing the visibility of these historic resources. The website also provides easy access to information about the City's Cultural Heritage Preservation Ordinance, relevant applications and forms for historic resources, and answers to frequently asked questions about the City's policies and programs.

A sub-committee of the Historic Preservation Commission held three public meetings to review and discuss the elements of the project and prepare for a community forum. The forum, held in January of 2016, educated the public about the purpose of the survey while also providing an opportunity to obtain information about important locations, persons, dates, and events in West Hollywood history. Community members submitted properties as potential historic resources, which the survey team then considered for further evaluation.

The culmination of the project occurred at the city's annual historic preservation event, with the Historic Preservation website and online database introduced to the public for the first time. Taking place on October 27, 2016, at the historic Schindler House at the MAK Center in West Hollywood, more than 100 community members and preservation enthusiasts joined the celebration. Since then, walking tours added to the website provide citizens with opportunities to get out and experience first-hand West Hollywood's richly diverse cultural heritage.

Learn more about the [West Hollywood Historic Resources Preservation Project](#).