

State Historical Resources Commission

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-09

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

Friends of Robinson Gardens

WHEREAS, The Virginia Robinson Gardens is a unique historic estate, a cultural jewel that transports the visitor back to the birthplace of Beverly Hills; built in 1911 as the residence of Virginia and Harry Robinson (of the Robinson Department Stores), listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and now recognized as the first luxury estate built in Beverly Hills; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Robinson, philanthropist and first lady of Beverly Hills bequeathed her six acre estate to the County of Los Angeles; and the nonprofit organization Friends of Robinson Gardens, assists the County Department of Parks and Recreation to maintain the estate in the elegant and tranquil manner in keeping with the living traditions of the early twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Robinson Gardens exists to help preserve the rich cultural history of Los Angeles by supporting The Virginia Robinson Gardens in its mission to preserve and promote this historically significant first estate of Beverly Hills for the education and enjoyment of the general public, avid gardeners, and those seeking a dynamic location for photo shoots with dramatic settings such as the awe-inspiring Australian King Palm Forest, the bucolic Rose Garden, and the tranquil Italian Terrace Garden; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1982 the Friends have restored many of the precious artifacts in the museum collection and assisted in the repair and restoration of architectural components of the estate to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, the Friends are contributing one quarter of the Gardens' annual operating budget, and in 2011, the Friends published the first book about the history of Harry and Virginia Robinson and their renowned home and gardens;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that official recognition on behalf of the State Historical Resources Commission and the State Historic Preservation Officer is given to the Friends of Robinson Gardens for its ongoing preservation, restoration, fundraising, and community education including lectures, gardening classes, and a botanical illustration program; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of the State Historical Resources Commission and a suitable copy presented to the Friends of Robinson Gardens.

August 3, 2012

STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Bryan K. Brandes
Chairman

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
Executive Secretary

