

## 2019 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

### **Beverly Fairfax Historic District NRHP Listing**



The Beverly Fairfax Historic District is an architecturally and culturally significant grouping of 463 residential resources in the Beverly Fairfax neighborhood of central Los Angeles. Developed between 1924 and 1949, Beverly Fairfax predominantly contains two-story, multi-family residences designed in Period Revival styles, retaining a high level of integrity; 79% of the district's buildings contribute to its historical significance.

The District is also significant as an early Jewish enclave, representing the earliest movement of Los Angeles' Jewish community westward from areas like Boyle Heights in the late 1920s and early 1930s. By 1940, at least two-thirds of the District's population was Jewish, representing both first-generation Americans and families who had lived in Los Angeles for decades. Beverly Fairfax became home to many Holocaust survivors, providing them with a safe community to plant roots and start their new lives, and remains strongly associated with Los Angeles' Jewish community today.

The National Register nomination was a grassroots, community-centered effort, initiated by the residents living within the Beverly Fairfax Historic District. In 2016, a proposed series of major developments in close proximity to the District caused concern that the historic identity and unique character of Beverly Fairfax would soon disappear as well. A volunteer committee of six residents formed [Save Beverly Fairfax](#) to explore how to best preserve the architectural and cultural history of the neighborhood. Save Beverly Fairfax initiated neighborhood outreach and funding efforts, and hired Architectural Resources Group (ARG) to complete a district survey and draft the National Register nomination.

Save Beverly Fairfax began community outreach by putting flyers up on every light pole in the neighborhood. The signs proved to be effective and the small group of six began to grow. A neighborhood lemonade stand further brought awareness to Save Beverly Fairfax. Over 200 signatures and emails were collected from neighbors interested in helping to preserve the District. Information packets were sent out to all property owners in the area explaining Save Beverly Fairfax's mission and outlining the benefits of preservation. The response from owners was overwhelmingly positive. Mixers were organized at local eateries, and free lawn signs distributed. A website, Facebook page, Instagram account, and GoFundMe page further promoted and gained support for the preservation of the neighborhood.

All of the support and efforts culminated in the successful nomination of Beverly Fairfax Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places, with listing officially achieved on October 4, 2018. The National Register listing brings a greater awareness to the District, allowing future generations the opportunity to enjoy and learn from its architectural and cultural history. Furthermore, the District stands as a monument to the generations of Jewish families, and Holocaust survivors, who called Beverly Fairfax home, and continue to do so today.