

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: May 23, 2005

TO: Members of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller 
Chief Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Contributions to the Historic Resources Survey

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Authorize the Director of Planning, or designee, to:
 - A. Accept the grant contribution of \$2.5 million from The Getty Conservation Institute, on behalf of the City, in support of the City's effort to conduct a Citywide Historic Resources Survey and in conformance with the grant agreement.
 - B. Receive and deposit these grant funds into the City Planning Grants Trust Fund No. 46Y.
 - C. Authorize the Controller to transfer from Fund 46Y, and appropriate into the Planning Department's Fund 100/68, funds in the following amounts to help offset Planning Department Fiscal Year 2005-06 direct costs pertaining to this effort:

Salaries, General	Acct. 1010	\$264,000
Contractual Services	Acct. 3040	\$164,000
2. Authorize the Chief Legislative Analyst to execute the final contribution agreement between The Getty Conservation Institute and the City of Los Angeles for the Citywide Historic Resources Survey.

BACKGROUND

Motion (Weiss-Hahn, CF 02-0173) instructed several City departments and offices to evaluate a proposal by The Getty Conservation Institute to conduct a citywide historic resources survey. The purpose of the survey is to develop a comprehensive understanding of cultural and historical resources in the City. This data would support preservation of important historic resources, stream-lined permit processing, and development of economic incentives for the improvement of historic properties and communities.

An organizational development consultant was retained by the City to facilitate discussions among the City departments and offices participating in the working group and to evaluate the Citywide historic resources survey concept. Working Group participants included Council District 5, the Office of the Mayor, the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), and the departments of Cultural Affairs, Planning, Building and Safety, Engineering, Community Development, Housing, and Community Redevelopment. The Getty Conservation Institute provided extensive technical information and support on issues concerning comprehensive surveys and data issues.

Three sessions were held with the City working group to identify current procedures for the evaluation of historic resources, identify best practices for the implementation of such a survey, evaluate current City systems and recommend ways to improve the City's preservation efforts, and identify costs associated with implementing such a survey. The results of these sessions was a consensus that a Citywide historic resources survey would be an effective project to improve the City's preservation efforts. The working group also identified ways that City departments could more efficiently coordinate their efforts.

In November 2004, the City Council adopted a recommendation to support the Citywide historic resources survey concept and seek contributions to support in support of the project, with an estimated cost of \$5 million over five years. The Council authorized the CLA and Planning Department to seek contributions to the project from various organizations and agencies that would be interested in participating with the City. The Getty Conservation Institute, having initially proposed this project, is one of the agencies approached concerning the opportunity for support.

The Getty Conservation Institute Contribution

The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) has indicated that they would provide a contribution of \$2.5 million over five years in support of the Citywide Historic Resources Survey. The contribution is dependent upon the City filling the Principal City Planner position approved for the Office of Historic Resources and the City matching their contribution, either through City funds or other contributions.

The Getty Conservation Institute has indicated that their grant contribution could be used to support additional staff in the Planning Department, specifically the addition of a Senior City Planner and a data management specialist, as well as the conduct of historic resources surveys. Each year's funding would be provided upon the City's completion of various milestones, such as preparation of an historic context statement, development of survey standards, and the development of public outreach and data availability efforts.

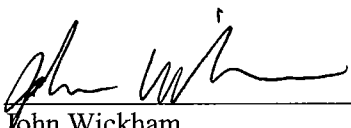
The City would be required to match the GCI contribution at a minimum of a 1:1 ratio. The City's match could consist of additional funding or contributions from other sources, including State or Federal grant funding, philanthropic organizations, or other support sources. In addition, the GCI has indicated that some existing City expenses could apply toward match funding as well, including some salary and expenses in the Office of Historic Resources.

Citywide Survey Process

The Working Group received extensive technical support from The Getty Conservation Institute, including a number of technical papers describing the various elements involved in a citywide historic resources survey. Those technical papers served as background for the development of a tentative approach to the conduct of the survey. The process outlined below describes a multi-year effort for conducting a Citywide Historic Resources Survey. The first two years of the survey project would be focused on the development of survey protocols and developing the details on the final project. As this is the largest survey of its kind, these preliminary steps are critical to full program.

- Years 1-2 This project would begin with development of a Historic Context Statement that outlines the various historic elements to be reviewed. Data collection methodologies would be developed and data systems would be refined and tested to ensure that information collected in the surveys is made available through ZIMAS and the Department of Building and Safety databases. In addition, sample surveys would be conducted to test the methodology and evaluation process.
- Years 3-5 Contractors would conduct the surveys. Survey results would be reviewed by a small team of specialists to ensure that the methodology was correctly implemented and that the data are correctly evaluated and prepared for City and public use. This team would be paid a small stipend for their efforts.
- Once the contractors and the review team have completed their work, data would be passed to the Cultural Heritage Commission for final review and approval. Data would then be input to ZIMAS and various web applications would present this information for public and governmental use.
- At the conclusion of the Citywide survey, an evaluation of the program will be conducted.

Preliminary estimates indicate that a Citywide Historic Resources Survey would cost approximately \$5 million over five years. One-time expenses for preparation of the Historic Context Statement, computers, and data system upgrades would be incurred in the first year. Annual costs include survey contractors and regular community meetings.


John Wickham
Analyst