



May 24, 2012

The Honorable Herb Wesson
President, Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street, Room 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Subject: Council Agenda Item 4 (File Number 11-1060, May 25, 2012 Meeting)
Support of Working Group for Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe**

Dear Council President Wesson,

The Autry National Center supports Agenda Item 11-1060 on Friday's (May 25, 2012) Council agenda establishing a working group related to developing strategies for ensuring a future of the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe. The Autry looks forward to working with the City and other involved parties and stakeholders on this important effort.

The Autry believes such a working group - led by the City, with active involvement from the Autry, along with input from various community stakeholders from across Los Angeles and other experts who know this complex field - is the best way for us collectively to find and support an honorable future for the Historic Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe facilities at the Autry's Mt. Washington campus. We believe it will be important to have active participation by key experts in the field of historic preservation, museum management, the philanthropic sector, the Native American community, among other important stakeholders and community leaders from across the City. It will be important for the group to focus on activities that will truly contribute to a successful future for the Mt. Washington facilities, such as an effective process to identify and pursue prospective partners, credible sources of funding, along with uses for the facilities that are appropriate and ensure a sustainable future for the facilities. Such a group will help ensure a robust and forward-looking approach and outcome.

We at the Autry are committed to such a partnership and to ensuring a viable future for these important facilities. We have been working hard to find viable partners. It has been no easy task. We believe the time has come to take the next step and to have the City and a broader working group come together to help pursue such a viable new direction. This proposed working group will help to move us all in this important direction. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel M. Finley".

Daniel M. Finley
President & CEO

**Autry National Center
of the American West**

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cc: Members, City Council