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October 21, 2020

Los Angeles City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: PLUM Committee

Dear Honorable Members:

PLEASANCE HOUSE; 1336-1342 NORTH SUTHERLAND STREET; CHC-2020-3288-HCM; ENV-2020-3289-CE; CD-13

At its meeting of **October 1, 2020**, the Cultural Heritage Commission took the actions below to include the Pleasance House in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments, subject to adoption by the City Council:

1. **Determined** that the proposed designation is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. **Determined** that the property conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to Section 22.171.7 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code;
3. **Recommended** that the City Council consider the Pleasance House for inclusion in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments; and
4. **Adopted** the attached Findings.

The Commission vote was as follows:

Moved: Milofsky
Seconded: Barron
Ayes: Buelna, Kanner, Kennard

Vote: 5 – 0

James K. Williams, Commission Executive Assistant II
Cultural Heritage Commission

The Cultural Heritage Commission would appreciate your inclusion of the subject property to the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

Time for Council to Act: The Commission action is hereby transmitted to the City Council for consideration. Pursuant to Section 22.171.10(f) of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, the Council may approve or disapprove in whole or in part an application or initiation for a proposed designation of a Monument. The Council shall act in 90-days of the public hearing held before the Commission on the proposed designation. The City Council may unilaterally extend the 90-day time limit to act for a maximum of 15 days for good cause. With written consent of the owner, the time for the City Council to act may be extended by up to an additional 60 days. If the Council does not act on the application or initiation within this specified time limit, the application or initiation to designate a Monument shall be deemed to have been denied.

Enclosure: Findings, Staff Report, Mailing List

FINDINGS

- The Pleasance House “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history” for its association with internationally recognized artist Stephan von Huene.
- The Pleasance House “embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction” as an excellent and intact example of the Airplane Bungalow variation of the Craftsman architectural style.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The Pleasance House meets two of the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria.

The subject property “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history” for its association with internationally recognized artist Stephan von Huene. Considered one of the founders of 20th century sound and media art, von Huene occupied the Pleasance House during a significant period of his career, when he first began exploring the confluence of sound and technology in his sculptural works. His sculptures, often referred to as “machines,” paved the way for innovative acoustic and kinetic art that transformed gallery visitors from passive observers into actively engaged participants. Notable pieces created while residing at the subject property during the late 1960s and 1970s included his first acoustic-kinetic sculpture, *Kaleidophonic Dog* (1967), *Tap Dancer* (1967), *Washboard Band* (1967), *Rosebud Annunciator* (1969), and *Totem Tones* (1970).

The Pleasance House also “embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction” as an excellent and intact example of the Airplane Bungalow variation of the Craftsman architectural style. Hallmarks of the style, as exhibited by the subject property, include the “pop-up” second story, low-pitched gable roof with wide eaves and exposed rafter tails, wood clapboard siding, and prominent projecting front entrance porch. Other distinctive features include the decorative purlins, wood built-ins, glazed brick fireplace, and stained-glass soffit lighting.

Despite some minor alterations, the subject property retains a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (“CEQA”) FINDINGS

State of California CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 “*consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.*”

State of California CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 “*consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic buildings.*”

The designation of the Pleasance House as an Historic-Cultural Monument in accordance with Chapter 9, Article 1, of The City of Los Angeles Administrative Code (“LAAC”) will ensure that future construction activities involving the subject property are regulated in accordance with Section 22.171.14 of the LAAC. The purpose of the designation is to prevent significant impacts to a Historic-Cultural Monument through the application of the standards set forth in the LAAC. Without the regulation imposed by way of the pending designation, the historic significance and integrity of the subject property could be lost through incompatible alterations and new construction and the demolition of an irreplaceable historic site/open space. The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation are expressly incorporated into the LAAC and provide standards concerning the historically appropriate construction activities which will ensure the continued preservation of the subject property.

The City of Los Angeles has determined based on the whole of the administrative record, that substantial evidence supports that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Class 31, and none of the exceptions to a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applies. The project was found to be exempt based on the following:

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 8 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals of maintaining, restoring, enhancing, and protecting the environment through the imposition of regulations designed to prevent the degradation of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 31 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals relating to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of historic buildings and sites in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Categorical Exemption ENV-2020-3289-CE was prepared on August 28, 2020.