



523 West Sixth Street, Suite 826  
Los Angeles, CA 90014

213 623 2489 OFFICE  
213 623 3909 FAX  
laconservancy.org

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**Submitted electronically via**  
**<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/publiccomment/>**

Budget and Finance Committee  
Attn: Mandy Morales, Legislative Assistant  
200 North Spring Street, Room 340  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2025-26**  
**CF-25-0600**

Dear Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

The Los Angeles Conservancy is alarmed by the devastating cuts proposed in the Draft Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget, as they will adversely impact the City's ability to effectively plan for its historic places. We hope your Committee can reconsider some of the proposed staffing cuts to the Department of City Planning and the Office of Historic Resources.

The Department of City Planning is facing some of the most drastic cuts in the budget. Although City Planning is only 1.6% of the City's total workforce, the Department will account for 7.2% of the proposed layoffs citywide. Cuts will lengthen the permitting process for homeowners, developers or businesses citywide, and will make it harder for Los Angeles to adequately address and achieve its housing goals outlined in the current Housing Element.

The Office of Historic Resources, which oversees the planning and protections for historic places citywide, faces a dramatic 29% staff reduction—from 17 positions down to just 12. The proposed cuts include the elimination of three Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) planners, leading to fewer meetings, longer review times, delays for homeowners, and weakened protections for L.A.'s historic neighborhoods. This will extend the approval and permitting process in all of Los Angeles' HPOZs, which



encompass over 21,000 properties. Also included in the proposed layoffs is the loss of the only staff member maintaining HistoricPlacesLA, ending the City's 15-year partnership with the Getty Foundation in documenting historic places through the City's SurveyLA program.

**The Conservancy calls for the restoration of five currently filled positions within the Office of Historic Resources.** This will ensure critical functions of the office can be maintained, and echoes the request from the Department of City Planning in their budget memo. These positions are critical to the economic development of the city. Without them, it will become more difficult and challenging for property owners wishing to renovate a home, start a business, or build new infill housing. The cuts significantly weaken Los Angeles' ability to protect historic places, from HPOZ neighborhoods to Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCMs) and National Register historic districts.

The Conservancy strongly urges the Budget and Finance Committee to restore this funding and maintain these critical staffing for the City's Office of Historic Resources. We understand the difficulty of the task and thank you for hearing our concerns.

**About the Los Angeles Conservancy:**

The Los Angeles Conservancy is the largest local historic preservation organization in the United States, with nearly 5,000 member households throughout the Los Angeles area. Established in 1978, the Conservancy works to preserve and revitalize the significant architectural and cultural heritage of Los Angeles County through advocacy and education.

Sincerely,



Andrew Salimian  
Director of Advocacy

cc: Ken Bernstein, Office of Historic Resources  
Lambert Giessinger, Office of Historic Resources

