

35th Anniversary Walking Tour in the Historic Figueroa Corridor Saturday, November 11, 2017

Follow the Highland Park Heritage Trust on an exclusive tour of Highland Park's iconic historic sites. You'll get a glimpse at layers of history in Los Angeles' first designated business district, from its Native American roots, to Spanish Land Grant, to downtown commercial district and automobile-oriented, Route 66 corridor. The Highland Park – Garvanza Historic Preservation Overlay Zone encompasses over 4,000 structures, including over 50 Historic-Cultural Monuments. Visit 'Chicken Boy', the Highland Park Masonic Temple, Highland Theater, and the Manning's Coffee sign – perhaps the first neon sign in Los Angeles.



Spring tour stops: *Top:* Louisa Van Leer (middle, wearing scarf) talks about historic preservation • *Bottom:* Future Studio Gallery, home of Chicken Boy

Open to **35** participants tickets are **\$35.** for non-members and **\$30.** for members, the two-tour begins at **3:00 PM** and winds its way along the streets adjacent to N. Figueroa.

The Tour ends about **5:00 PM** at the iconic Future Studio Gallery, home of Chicken Boy, for a Happy Hour with light refreshments. Participants may also want to stay on to visit the galleries and establishments along the corridor involved in the monthly 2nd Saturday Gallery Night that starts at 7:00 PM.

Easily accessed by Metro buses and the Gold Line, and with available parking nearby, docents will meet participants in the pergola at the Avenue 57 Highland Park Gold Line Station. ★

Please make your reservations by November 7, 2017, online at www.hpht.org/tours or by check mailed to Highland Park Heritage Trust, P.O. Box 50894, Los Angeles, CA 90050-0894. Information (323) 908-4127

Jump Start the HPHT Celebration of 35 years of Preservation Advocacy

JJ JACKMAN, HPHT Secretary

*"I'd like to donate, but I want to know what my money
is being used for."*

Mave you ever said this? It's a common concern among the good people who give to non-profit, charitable and cultural organizations, and it's often cited as a reason why people choose NOT to donate at all! Please allow HPHT to alleviate your concern...

Introducing the HPHT WISH LIST

Help your Heritage Trust by donating one of the items listed below – Wish List Donors will be publicly thanked on our website and in Our Cornerstone.

HIGHLAND PARK HERITAGE TRUST WISH LIST

Item	Why we need it	Est. Cost	Details
Gaylord Archival Tan Barrier Board Glass Negative Storage System – ZZ-GN-B57	For Proper storage of 8 glass negatives in the HPHT Archives	\$30.00/box	Can be purchased at www.gaylord.com
Metal shelving	For re-organization of the HPHT Storage unit		Email secretary@hpht.org for more info
Acid Free Folders – Gaylord Archival Reinforced Full I" tab legal size File Folders (100 pack) RF9II4	For proper storing of archival documents in the HPHT Archives	\$42.80	Can be purchased at www.gaylord.com

Donate at: <http://highlandparkheritagetrust.org/donate/>

Donate by mail at HPHT, P.O. Box 50894, Los Angeles, CA 90050-0894
To deliver purchased items contact HPHT at info@hpht.org or (323) 908-4127

Check the latest issue of the HPHT newsletter OUR CORNERSTONE and the HPHT Website (www.HPHT.org) for regular updates to our Wish list.



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Our Cornerstone is the official newsletter of the Highland Park Heritage Trust, a non-profit community organization.

Editors: Carmela Gomes
Rebecca Schiffman

Layout: Future Studio

Distribution: Robert Mactavish
and Marcia Gurrola

Email articles to: Info@hpht.org

Mail to:
HPHT

P.O. Box 50894
Los Angeles, CA 90050-0894

HPHT message line: (818) 429-8755
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Find us on FACEBOOK

Advertisement Policy:

Advertisements will be accepted for this publication from advertisers who are in keeping with the intention and goals of this organization. Contact Charly Kemp for submission info and rates.

Do you have a historic home or preservation story you want to publicize? Please contribute articles, photos and anecdotes to HPHT. Email to info@hpht.org.

"Like" us on our Facebook fan page "Highland Park Heritage Trust"





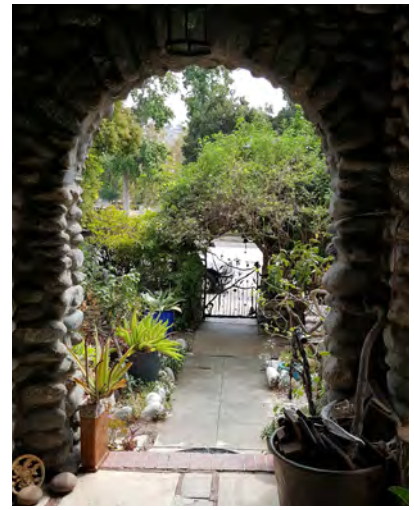
On September 15, 2017, 30 students from the 7th Grade at Arroyo Seco Museum Science Magnet ventured into the Sycamore Grove area of Highland Park with their teacher, Mara Lansdown, to investigate what makes their community unique. Marilyn Robertson, retired LAUSD teacher, librarian and lead HPHT docent, and Louisa Van Leer, HPHT President, architect, artist and designer of The Living Museum walking tour, accompanied the group as they learned about the area just a few steps from their school compound.

Based on the bi-monthly tour, Marilyn and Louisa began the tour in Sycamore Grove Park introducing the students to the Native American roots and the Spanish Land Grant that brought settlers.

They crossed North Figueroa Street and climbed to the top of the Glenmary Stairs to the Baker House where they were greeted by artist Roderick Smith.

At the Hiner House, next door to their school, they were invited into the home of actor Troy Evans and Heather McLarty, a smithy who explained her bronze sheet work.

They walked past their school on Sycamore Terrace learning the original purpose of the historic homes referred to as Professors' Row. ★



TOP LEFT: Marilyn and students on road • TOP RIGHT: Students sitting on wall Professors' Row before crossing Avenue 50 where they entered the compound of the former Occidental College liberal arts building • MIDDLE LEFT: Troy Evans greets students at the gate of the Hiner House • MIDDLE RIGHT: Entrance to the Hiner House • BELOW LEFT: Roderick Smith • BELOW RIGHT: Heather McLarty (right) explains bronze chasing and proué



HPHT Walking Tours: <http://highlandparkheritagetrust.org/walking-tour/>
The Living Museum: <http://livingmuseumla.blogspot.com/>

Bi-Annual Awards Committee is Gearing Up for Sunday, May 6, 2018

Over the years, Highland Park Heritage Trust has recognized the preservation ethic of our Arroyo communities in many ways—from buildings, to murals, gardens, special neighborhood people, and businesses.

Our main goal is to recognize a range of actions taken to improve the historic heritage of the communities of the Arroyo Seco in a way that celebrates these actions, and gives deserved recognition and honor to those that best match our mission.

Every two years an **Awards Committee** is formed, made up of enthusiastic member volunteers who review nominations made by HPHT members. They arrange field trips to visit locations and determine award recipients. The committee recruits from the membership to help with the Awards Ceremony that will take place Sunday, May 6, 2018. Those of you who have attended past awards ceremonies know how excited and gratified the recipients are for being recognized by the community.

The Awards Committee will be meeting in January 2018. If you are someone who would like to be included, please send a message via our info@hpht.org message center, drop a note to the post office box address HPHT, P.O. Box 50894, Los Angeles, CA 90050, or call the info phone line (323) 908-4127. ★



PAST AWARD WINNERS INCLUDE...

Top: Continued care of the AT&T mural, Meridian & N. Ave. 56

Bottom: Frame Monster, 586 W. Ave. 28



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Highland Park Sycamore Grove Walking Tour

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Fire Destroys Historic Reeves House

Adjacent Morrell House also Damaged

CHARLES J. FISHER

The Reeves House at 219 N. Avenue 53 was destroyed by fire on the morning of October 10, 2017, the fire causing collateral damage to the Morrell House at 215 N. Avenue 53 and an apartment building at 225 N. Avenue 53. The Reeves and Morrell Houses are listed as Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument Nos. 380 and 379, respectively. The Morrell House, though damaged, appears to have survived.

Built in 1904, the Reeves House is named after its first owner, Susan Reeves, who was a local schoolteacher. The Morrell House was designed by the architect Charles E. Shattuck and was documented in *Craftsman* magazine shortly after it was constructed in 1906. Originally built for local banker John B. Merrill, it was sold two years later to Rivers Morrell, who lived there for a number of years. Merrill had a new house built on Mt. Washington, designed by the architect H. M. Patterson, which is listed as Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument No. 483.

According to witnesses, the fire started on the front porch of the 113-year-old Colonial Revival cottage where a number of magazines were being stored. The blaze quickly spread to the attic and the house was fully engulfed when the fire department arrived. The fire soon ignited the roof of the Morrell House as it scorched the south-facing wall of the adjacent apartment, leading to the evacuation of that building. The plume of black smoke could be seen for miles climbing up the clear still sky.

Both houses had been saved in 1988 when they both became slated for demolition by two different developers. They were added to a group of ten Historical Cultural

Monument (HCM) nominations that the Highland Park Heritage Trust (HPHT) had already submitted to the City of Los Angeles. The Cultural Heritage Commission voted unanimously to declare all ten houses, even though the certified letter sent to the owners of the two N. Avenue 53 houses had been returned as undelivered.

The Reeves house was in escrow with a builder hailing from Chicago, where he had come from years earlier with 20 bucks in his pocket. He had made his money in the building trade, becoming a millionaire a few years later. His attorney was just as brash when an HPHT committee met with them at Uptown Properties on North Figueroa Street, along with the two brothers who had inherited the house from their grandmother

and were trying to cash in on the building frenzy in Highland Park at the time.

The developer was paying \$250,000, what was then considered a princely sum. The developers told the brothers not to pick up any certified mail due to his fear that because they owed on debts, someone might try to put a lien on the property prior to the close of escrow. However, the son of the former owner of the Morrell House took a copy of the letter to his former neighbors so they would be notified.

The meeting went nowhere fast, with the attorney offering

to give HPHT the house if the preservation community would move it off the land completely at our own expense. By this time the ex-wife of one of the brothers, who was also present, had disrupted the meeting claiming she had no idea what could possibly be historic about the house

continued on page 5



Reeves House. Photo: Charles J. Fisher



Morrell House. Photo: Charles J. Fisher

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as it was not a Victorian. Her demeanor concerned some of the HPHT members present as she came across as potentially violent. A few months later the *Glendale News Press* reported that she was convicted of shooting and injuring a former boyfriend.

The twelve nominations eventually got to the Los Angeles City Council, which voted unanimously to declare each one a monument. The two contested houses on North Avenue 53 were debated. The lawyer for the

Reeves House developer again made his offer to give away the house with no expenses covered. He also warned that if the City Council voted to declare the house, they would go through the required environmental clearances and tear down the house.

After the vote, the attorney stormed out of the chamber with his right hand raised, pointing skyward and yelling, "You've lost the house!"

Sadly, 29 years later, it looks like the attorney was right. ★

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PROPERTIES

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Highland Park Heritage Trust—Membership Registration/Renewal

You may join or renew online at www.hpht.org or by sending your tax deductible check to:
Highland Park Heritage Trust • Attn: Membership • PO Box 50894 • Los Angeles CA 90050-0894

<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Couple \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5 <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$51 to \$150) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Angel (over \$150) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member My preference for contact: <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Email I prefer to receive the Cornerstone Newsletter by <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> My employer or my spouse's employer matches gifts to non-profits. HPHT is a 501c3 Non-Profit Corporation, Tax ID #95-4034485 <input type="checkbox"/> Please contact me about creating an endowment
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NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE EMAIL

I am interested in working on the following activities:

Walking Tours: Docent Reception Archiving Awards Ceremony Mailing Assistance
 Oral History Email Fund Raising Marketing & Publicity Restoration Workshops
 Cornerstone Articles School & Education Programs Membership Events

 **Arroyo Arts Collective** PRESENTS

THE 25TH ANNUAL DISCOVERY *Tour*

The **FINAL**
Self-Guided Tour of
Artists' Homes and
Studios in Northeast
Los Angeles - **FREE!**

Maps at Southwest Museum
on the Day of the Tour

- **PREVIEW PARTY**
November 11 • 7pm
Avenue 50 Studio




Sunday
NOV 19TH 2017
9:30am - 5pm
ArroyoArtsCollective.org

EVENTS & MEETINGS OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2017

Monthly HPHT Board and Program Meeting • 2nd Mondays • 7 to 8:30 PM • Ebell Club, 131 S. Avenue 57, Highland Park • www.hpht.org or (323) 908-4127

Bi-monthly HPHT Walking Tours • Saturdays: October 28, December 16 • 10 AM to 12:30 PM • Sycamore Grove/ Highland Park area • tickets: <http://hpht.org/walking-tour.php>, \$5 HPHT members, \$10 non-members • (323) 908-4127

Highland Park/Garvanza HPOZ • 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month • 6:00 PM • Arroyo Seco Library Community Room, 6145 N. Figueroa St., Highland Park

Brewery Art Walk • Saturday October 21 & Sunday October 22 • 11 AM to 6 PM • 2100 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90031 • info@breweryartwalk.com • (323) 638-9382

Pasadena Society of Artists & Arroyo Arts Collective: Celebrating Halloween and Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) • October 1 to 30 • Pasadena Central Library, 285 East Walnut Street, Pasadena, CA 91101

Historic Route 66 Walking Tour along the North Figueroa Corridor • Saturday November 11 • 3 to 5 PM • *see page 1 for details*

Arroyo Arts Collective 2017 Discovery Tour • Sunday November 19 • 9:30 AM to 5 PM • FREE ~ no tickets required • <http://arroyoartscollective.org/discovery-tour-2017/>

73rd Annual NELA Holiday Parade • Sunday December 3 • 1 to 4 PM • N. Figueroa Street, Avenue 60 to Avenue 52, bring your lawn chair and good cheer

Highland Park Heritage Trust's 35th Annual Holiday Party • Sunday December 10 • 4 to 7 PM • Location TBA, info@hpht.org • (323) 908-4127

Save the Date: Sunday, March 18, 2018 • Abbey San Encino Tour and Gala



PO Box 50894
Los Angeles CA 90050-0894
www.hpht.org

Address Correction Requested

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PO Box 50894 • Los Angeles CA 90050-0894
(323) 908-4127 • www.info@hpht.org

Highland Park Heritage Trust Bi-Annual Community Preservation Awards 2018

Please help Highland Park Heritage Trust (HPHT) to honor the efforts of homeowners, business owners, and special neighborhood people who have preserved and/or improved the heritage of our Arroyo communities. Just take a few minutes to give us information about the qualifying building or individual (criteria are provided below) by filling out the nomination form.

HPHT's Awards Committee will receive and carefully review your nomination and will visit nominated buildings. The committee gives awards based on which nominees best match HPHT's mission. In the past, these preservation awards have gone to a wide range of buildings, murals, gardens, people, and events in Highland Park and the surrounding Arroyo Seco communities of Highland Park, Garvanza, Mt. Washington, Hermon, Montecito Heights, and Cypress Park

The awards will be presented at a **Bi-annual Awards Ceremony** that will take place on **Sunday, May 6, 2018**, at a location and time to be announced.

Thank you for taking the first step to celebrate the contributions of our community members!

CRITERIA

In general, all nominations need to be exterior-based (for example, the restoration of a building's façade) or have the ability to be experienced by the general public in some tangible manner such as in a website or event or actions of an individual.

In addition, please use these specific criteria in completing your nominations on the form:

1. There is evidence of significant exterior improvement and preservation of this property in the last year (home, residence, commercial property, historic, non-historic).
2. There is evidence of continued/sustained maintenance and care of this property.
3. There has been preservation, improvement, or maintenance of the garden or landscape.
4. There has been a significant contribution by virtue of the impact on the preservation community because of this activity or event.
5. There has been a significant contribution by an organization or individual toward the preservation of our cultural heritage.

HPHT is an all-volunteer, nonprofit 501c3 organization (#95-4034485) that is dedicated to the historic preservation of Los Angeles' Arroyo Seco communities of Highland Park, Garvanza, Mt. Washington, Hermon, Montecito Heights, and Cypress Park. Our mission is to advocate and educate the community about our historic neighborhood by hosting walking tours and programs, and sponsoring events that feature our rich cultural and architectural heritage.

HPHT 2018 Nomination Form

The form is also available online at www.hpht.org

Please use a separate form for each nomination

Name and contact information of the HPHT member making the nomination:

NAME _____

CONTACT INFORMATION (PHONE, EMAIL) _____

I would like to nominate this:

- property
- place
- activity/event
- organization
- individual, for a HPHT Community Preservation Award

Contact information for nominee:

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

Use the ***criteria*** to explain why you are making this nomination.

For a building or a place: What has happened here that deserves recognition by HPHT?

For some action or event, an organization or an individual, elaborate specifics about the nomination so the judges best understand the context of the nomination.

Submit via mail to P.O. Box 50894, Los Angeles, CA 90050-0894
Or submit via email to info@hpht.org
Submission Deadline: Wednesday, January 17, 2018
HPHT message line: (323) 908-4127