LONG BEACH

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW
The Cultural Heritage Commission plays an important role in preserving Long Beach’s architectural and historical identity. The Commission identifies buildings and neighborhoods of value to Long Beach’s cultural heritage, reviews design of all changes to designated properties, recommends designation of City landmarks and encourages the public’s understanding and appreciation of Long Beach’s rich architectural and environmental history. Its duties fall into two broad categories: policy actions and project actions. For example, the Commissioners review and comment for advisory purposes on planning policies as they relate to cultural heritage. On the project side, their duties include reviewing requests for Certificates of Appropriateness and advising owners of designated or potential landmarks on technical aspects of preservation, rehabilitation and reuse. By 2011, there were 132 designated individual local landmarks and 17 designated historic districts in the City.

Cultural Heritage Commission 2011 By the Numbers

- Conducted 9 scheduled meetings
- Approved 15 Certificates of Appropriateness, consisting of
  - 10 residential properties
  - 3 commercial properties
  - 1 religious institution
  - 1 City-owned recreational facility
- Conducted 5 study sessions on different properties
- Appointed 2 sub-committees to work with applicants on their projects

In addition...

- Received training on the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards
- Reappointed Trustee to the Navy Memorial Heritage Association
- Fostered relationship with Galvin Preservation Associates, the City’s newly contracted professional consultant for historic preservation. This firm will provide support to the historic preservation function, conducting training sessions before the Commission, creating information documents to assist applicants in property restoration, reviewing the City’s existing Mills Act contracts and providing project review support to the Commission and staff, as needed.
During 2011 the Cultural Heritage Commission’s efforts included taking action on several existing designated landmarks in the City:

- Famous Department Store at 601 Pine Avenue
- Security Pacific National Bank Building at 102 Pine Avenue
- Royal Mail Ship Queen Mary
- St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, located at 703/725 Atlantic Avenue and 525 E. 7th Street
- Olan Hafley House at 5561 La Pasada Street
- The Bank of Belmont Shore located at 5354 E. 2nd Street
- Adelaide Tichenor House located at 852 E. Ocean Boulevard
- Marine Stadium

The Palace

Built in 1929, The Palace is an historic, two-story building now restored and renovated to serve as a home to transitional age emancipated foster youth. The renovation of the once-dilapidated crime hot spot began in Summer 2010. The Palace has been converted into 14 studio apartment units (one manager’s unit), offices to help provide services to the residents, as well as retail space on the first floor that may help employ some of the residents, and community meeting and residential gathering space. The update includes a variety of sustainability features including Energy Star appliances, recycled materials, a high-efficiency HVAC system, and dual-flush toilets. Photovoltaic solar panels and ClearEdge5 fuel cell technology that use natural gas to create electricity and in the conversion process generate heat that will be used to generate domestic hot water. The building is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council and is expected to achieve LEED Gold certification. The Palace has been designated as a City of Long Beach Landmark. With a building lifespan of more than 50 years, The Palace will provide a stable home to hundreds of young adults working toward gaining employment, finding their own apartment and completing their education. Grand opening in February 2012.
Historic Preservation Element

The Historic Preservation Element adopted by the City Council in June 2010 is the City’s first citywide policy document regarding Historic Preservation. In January 2011, Long Beach Heritage honored the City with a Preservation Award for the new Element. The Element provides direction and guidance to the Cultural Heritage Commission and staff through its vision statement and five goals.

Vision Statement

To ensure that the rich history of Long Beach is preserved through the identification, protection and celebration of its historic resources which are valued for their role in the City’s environment, urban design, economic prosperity, and contributions to the quality of life in our neighborhoods, the Historic Preservation Element established the goals, policies and implementation measures that affirm the City’s commitment to historic preservation.

Goals

Goal 1
Maintain and support a comprehensive, citywide historic preservation program to identify and protect Long Beach’s historic, cultural and archaeological resources.

Goal 2
Protect historic resources from demolition and inappropriate alterations through the use of the City’s regulatory framework, technical assistance and incentives.

Goal 3
Maintain and expand the inventory of historic resources in Long Beach.

Goal 4
Increase public awareness and appreciation of the City’s history and historic, cultural and archaeological resources.

Goal 5
Integrate historic preservation policies into the City’s community development, economic development and sustainable-city strategies.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2011

Henry Clock House
10 Atlantic: Artaban Door
230 Pine: Interior