



Date: December 27, 2023

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Christopher Koontz, Director of Community Development 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: 2024 Mills Act Property Tax Abatement Program

The City of Long Beach (City) Community Development Department (Department) is pleased to announce that the Mills Act Property Tax Abatement Program (Mills Act) application process will be opening for the 2024 application cycle. The 2024 Mills Act Application Guide will be made available to the public on the Department [website](#) beginning on Friday, December 29, 2023.

The City's Mills Act Program (Program) was established in 1993, under the authority of State legislation, known as the "Mills Act". The Program provides a financial incentive for property owners undertaking restoration, rehabilitation or maintenance of a designated historic property. The incentive is achieved through property tax relief to owners of historic properties in exchange for the rehabilitation and restoration of the historic property pursuant to the terms of a Mills Act contract with the City.

Building upon recent efforts to increase recognition and preservation of community histories that are currently under-represented in the historic preservation program in Long Beach, such as through the recently adopted Race and Suburbanization Historic Context Statement, the outreach strategy for this year's Mills Act program is designed to be accessible to more diverse communities in Long Beach including non-English speaking residents. During the 2023 cycle, interpretation services were available at the in-person applicant workshops in Spanish, Khmer and Tagalog; however, to better serve the community, the City will record and post videos in English, Spanish and Khmer to be shared on the Mills Act webpage and social media platforms for this year's cycle. To further increase visibility of these promotional videos, staff will work with Community Based Organizations to promote the program on their respective social media channels.

The Department will host two public workshops for potential applicants, one in-person on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cal Rec Community Center at Ernest McBride Park and virtually on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Interpretation and translated materials will be available in Spanish, Khmer and Tagalog, upon request. Potential applicants must attend the January pre-application workshop to determine eligibility, and eligible applicants must attend the February application workshop in order for their application to be considered.

The Program application, and a non-refundable processing fee, must be submitted by the March 1, 2024, deadline to be considered for the 2024 Program. City staff anticipates that the applications will be reviewed by the Cultural Heritage Commission on or before Tuesday, June 25, 2024, and transmitted to the City Council for action on or before Tuesday, September 17,

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2024. Final property tax contracts will be sent to the Los Angeles County Recorder on or before Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

For further information regarding the Mills Act Program, please contact Alison Spindler-Ruiz, Planner Bureau Manager, at Alison.Spindler-Ruiz@longbeach.gov or (562) 570-6946.

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