

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 01-289

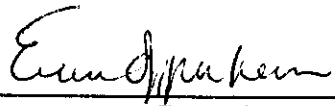
DATE August 8, 2001

C.D. _____

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR PRESERVE L.A. GRANT FUNDING

J. Combs _____	J. Kolb _____
*A. Corrales _____	M. Tamuri _____
J. Duggan _____	M. Matthews _____
H. Fujita _____	



General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve and direct staff to prepare and submit proposals to the Getty Grant Program to secure funding to develop historical structure reports for five recommended historical sites. The deadline for submittal is August 20, 2001.

SUMMARY:

Preserve L.A. is a three-year program, launched in 2000 by the Getty Grant Program, to fund efforts to conserve the architectural heritage of Los Angeles. The program supports two types of grants: *Planning Grants* and *Project Implementation Grants*. *Planning Grants* will provide up to \$75,000 for research, documentation, and analysis of preservation needs, and can also be utilized for development of a conservation plan. *Project Implementation Grants* will provide up to \$250,000 for the actual conservation of a historic structure or site.

The Department proposes to submit *Planning Grant* proposals for five historical sites within the Pacific Region to secure funding to develop historical structure reports. These reports will provide the foundation to facilitate appropriate renovation and improvements to each of the historical facilities and to assist in the development of educational programs and exhibits to further the public's knowledge of the Department's significant historical resources.

Four of the five museums located within the Pacific Region are considered to be historic and culturally significant: the Drum Barracks and Banning Residence Museums located in Wilmington, and the Maritime and Fort MacArthur Museums located in San Pedro. In addition, an application will be submitted for the Point Fermin Lighthouse which will be operated as a museum after undergoing renovation this year.

Collectively, these structures form a historic mosaic of Harbor Area development during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. All structures meet preliminary eligibility requirements for consideration of funding.

Following is a summary of these five historic museums:

1. The Drum Barracks Civil War Museum is housed in the last remaining wooden building of Drum Barracks, the Union Army Headquarters for Southern California and the Arizona Territory from 1861 to 1871. Built to protect the port and keep the peace during the Civil War, the Barracks served as the main staging, training, and supply base for military operations in the Southwest. The 1862 structure, now housing the museum, was the Junior Officers' Quarters.
2. The Banning Residence Museum was built in 1864 by General Phineas Banning, a key figure in the development of the transportation infrastructure of the region during the nineteenth century. This Greek Revival architectural structure has designation as City, State, and National Historic Landmarks. The residence museum currently showcases 18 rooms decorated with furniture and other articles reflecting the lifestyle of its owners.
3. The Maritime Museum is located in the former Municipal Ferry Terminal in the Port of Los Angeles. This ferry was the major means of commute for employees of various industries in their heyday reliant on the ocean for their commerce. Many of these industries are no longer concentrated in the area or have a diminished presence as a result of changing markets and economic conditions. The ferry stopped its runs partly due to the construction of the Vincent Thomas Bridge which provided a much faster mode of getting to and from San Pedro and Terminal Island. Today, the building houses the largest maritime collection on the West Coast.
4. The Fort MacArthur Museum is located in the historic Battery Osgood-Farley, considered to be the only unmodified gun battery of its type and vintage in the continental United States. Built during 1915 to 1919, and located on the Upper Reservation of Fort MacArthur, this facility played a significant role in the defense of the Harbor area throughout various wars and conflicts. Appropriately, the museum displays artifacts of local and national military significance.
5. Point Fermin Lighthouse was built in 1874 and is listed in the National Registry of Historical Places. This wood frame structure is considered significant due to its Italianate Victorian architecture, its role in the maritime history of the region, and because it is the last surviving Southern California wooden lighthouse remaining intact. This structure will be renovated in the near future as a Prop K funded project, and will operate as a museum, open to the public.

Successful award of the Planning Grants will provide the museums with individualized Historic Survey reports to help guide future conservation or restoration efforts, expansion of educational programs, as well as in planning future expansion efforts. In addition, utilization of the reports as a resource tool may aid in compliance with the various agencies which provide funding for historic sites and museums.

Prepared by Linda Clifford, Management Analyst II