



WAHA Visits Odd Fellows/Casa Camino Real

Annual Board Elections Meeting and Potluck

Sunday, April 1 4-7 p.m. 1828 South Oak Street (NE corner of Washington Boulevard)

We are excited to announce that the Election Meeting and Potluck will be at the fabulous Odd Fellows building currently being restored. Built in 1924 for a fraternal society and designed by the firm Morgan, Walls & Morgan, the Odd Fellows Temple, also known as Casa Camino Real, Historic Cultural Monument No. 300, was part of the revival of Spanish architecture. The design of



the exterior of the reinforced concrete structure is basically Beaux Arts but the windows are both Art Deco and Spanish styles, with cast-concrete ornamentation. The interiors range from simple to grandiose with the greatest attention given to the two-story social hall. The new owners call their restoration work "history with a modern touch," combining

historic preservation and contemporary design aesthetic. Rechristened Casa Vertigo, it includes a ballroom for over 300 people plus numerous other venues and office space. We will be meeting in the mezzanine office space, and will be able to tour the whole building.

The parking lot is just east on Washington. The entrance to the building is on Oak. This is a Potluck dinner. Please bring table ready food (a dish serving ten people), as we will not have any kitchen facilities. (See Candidates' Statements on page 4.) ●

3rd Annual Art In Historic Places Tour Saturday, March 24

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last ticket sold at 1 p.m.)

West Adams' artistic traditions and contemporary art efforts will be on view again on Saturday, March 24, when WAHA presents the third annual Art in Historic Places Tour, "The Arts in West Adams: Pattern, Decoration and Diversity."



The 2012 tour's Honorary Chairperson is actress and art collector/gallery owner C.C.H. Pounder. WAHA's tour partners are the California African American Museum (CAAM) and the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library. The tour

will showcase work by local West Adams artists along with several art collections housed in the community's historic places. Among the artists included in this year's tour are Josh Atlas, exhibited at the Mrs. Susan Wilshire Residence, a 1912 Colonial Revival; and Kim Reese, on view at a classic 1920s bungalow court apartment complex, and ceramist Arthur Tobias, who is opening the doors to his Spanish Revival home and studio. (continued on page 6)

Rockin' West Adams

LACMA's Megalith Passes Through the Heart of West Adams

Hundreds of West Adams neighbors and friends gathered late Friday evening, March 9, on all four corners at the intersection of Adams and Western to await the arrival of LACMA's "Big Rock," and watched as its' handlers deftly maneuvered the tight corner and uphill climb past the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building on the final leg of the journey to the LA County Museum of Art where it will become the centerpiece of the new installation of Michael Heizer's "Levitated Mass."

State Senator Curren Price was among those spectators spotted earlier as the rock made its way from Figueroa onto West

Adams Boulevard. Advance crews had trimmed trees, removed traffic signal arms, and held wires aloft as the behemoth rumbled it's way through our neighborhood. WAHA folks from North University Park, Adams-Normandie, Van Buren, and all along Adams to Jefferson Park, came together to experience a "little" piece (340 tons worth!!!) of art history in the making.







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Bryan Freeny, whose painting, "Not Always a Charm," is depicted above, is one of the artists participating in WAHA's Art in Historic Places tour on Saturday, March 24. (see page 1)

Newsletter Staff

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WAHA Upcoming Events

WAHA has a VERY BUSY Spring! Please mark your calendars for these upcoming activities.

Saturday, March 24 Art in Historic Places Tour

Sunday, April 1 WAHA Board Elections and Potluck

Sunday, April 29 L.A. Heritage Day

Sunday, May 6 WAHA Annual Preservation Brunch

Saturday, June 2 WAHA Annual Spring Historic Homes & Architecture Tour

HPOZ Boards in West Adams Need New Volunteers

A unique feature of Los Angeles' historic preservation program is that its 29 historic districts (or HPOZs for Historic Preservation Overlay Zones) are all administered with the guidance of local HPOZ boards.

HPOZs in the West Adams area are in need of volunteers to serve on their respective boards. Architects, landscape architects, contractors, real estate agents, preservation experts, community activists, and folks with a positive and proactive interest in serving historic neighborhoods are all invited to submit letters of interest, and Spanish speakers are highly desired. HPOZs are perhaps the City's strongest tool to protect the West Adams area's culturally and architecturally rich neighborhoods and HPOZ board members play a major role in reviewing rehabilitation projects, monitoring code enforcement issues and providing educational outreach to local stakeholders.

In some cases HPOZ board members must live in or near an HPOZ in order to serve, but there are often occasions where volunteers from outside of a specific HPOZ may serve.

The Adams-Normandie, Harvard Heights, Jefferson Park, Lafayette Square, North University Park, * Pico-Union, University Park, West Adams Terrace, and Western Heights HPOZs are all in need of board members who will serve four-year terms at meetings that occur no more than twice a month in regular intervals. Depending on your board's current vacancies, board members are appointed by the Cultural Heritage Commission, the Office of the Mayor, the local Council Member, or the HPOZ board itself (with input from the local neighborhood council).

Interested candidates should submit a resume and a one-page letter of interest outlining their particular expertise and interest in serving. While some vacant positions must be filled by volunteers with specific credentials (listed above), many others may be filled simply by enthusiastic volunteers who want to help their respective communities. While the City of L.A. provides training for all board members, candidates should be generally familiar with historic preservation standards.

Send resumes and letters of interest in PDF format to Shana Bonstin in the Department of City Planning's Office of Historic Resources at shana.bonstin@lacity.org or 200 North Spring Street, Room 601, Los Angeles, CA 90012, or e-mail or call 213-978-1217 for more information. ●

*North University Park actually has a Design Review Board that deals with both historic preservation and broader land use issues.

West Adams Heritage Association | WAHA

President's Message by John Patterson

It's Springtime – and that can mean only one thing here in WAHA-land: the call goes out for volunteers to step forward to lend a hand. There is virtually no limit to the ways you can actively participate in this all-volunteer organization. We now have four separate tours over the course of the year, and as we welcome people to our neighborhood, and share "why we like to call West Adams home," there are literally dozens of ways to assist on the day of a tour – no huge commitment required.

If you like helping organize in advance, there are committees that need new hands: Outreach, Events, and the Tour Committees each could use some fresh faces. And of course, the WAHA Board of Directors is an excellent way to be a part of our organization, and help steer it as we move forward. Over the course of the last two years, we have pared down the size of the Board – with the very positive result that our meetings don't drag on nearly as long, and are much less contentious than I recall from my earlier years of participation.

WAHA is your organization; for those of you who haven't yet done so, please consider volunteering at one level or another. We'd love to have you join in the fun!!

John Patterson may be reached by e-mail at President@WestAdamsHeritage.org

L.A. Heritage Day Celebrates Los Angeles

Gathering of the Region's Historic Preservation Groups and Historical Societies Takes Place at El Pueblo in Downtown on April 29th

This year's L.A. Heritage Day will be held on Sunday, April 29, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument.

What makes this year especially exciting is the partnership with El Pueblo: the event will be held in and around the historic Pico House, including the courtyard. You will not want to miss this exciting celebration of LA's history and culture. Beyond table displays from dozens of historical and preservation organizatons (including West Adams Heritage Association) as in years past, Heritage day will promote tours and the exhibits that surround the plaza at El Pueblo.



El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument



Pico House at El Pueblo

El Pueblo is 44 acres bounded by Alameda,

Arcadia, Spring and Macy Streets This is the founding site of the City of Los Angeles. It includes Olvera Street, a Mexican marketplace with shops and restaurants Avila Adobe, the oldest house in Los Angeles (1818); the Masonic Hall, built in 1858; and Old Plaza Church (Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles), which is the oldest church in the city. The church was completed in 1822 by the Franciscans.

Old Plaza Firehouse, built in 1884, houses an original chemical wagon, antique firefighting equipment and historic photographs Pico House once an elegant hotel built in 1870 by Pio Pico, the last governor of California under the Mexican flag Sepulveda House a two-story Eastlake Victorian building constructed in 1887.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join WAHA and others in this celebration of Los Angeles history. ${\ensuremath{\bullet}}$

Annual HPOZ Conference is Slated for Saturday, May 19

Whether you are an HPOZ Board Members or a preservation enthusiast, save Saturday, May 19, 2012 on your calendars for the 10th annual HPOZ Conference. The HPOZ Conference is an annual event focused on the professional development of our nearly 150 HPOZ Board Members as well as those who are interested in neighborhood preservation throughout the Los Angeles area. The Department of City Planning and the Los Angeles Conservancy host this event each year, offering informative sessions tailored to the needs of our preservation community. The location and venue details are still being finalized, but please do make sure that the event is on your schedule. ●

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WAHA Annual Board Election: Candidates' Statements

Sunday, April 1 4-7 p.m. Casa Camino, 1828 Oak Street (at Washington)

WAHA's annual Board of Directors election is on Sunday, April 1. As always, we need board members with fresh, upbeat, enthusiastic ideas. This community was founded by the best volunteers in the nation, and now is the time for members (you!) to come forward. Board members are committed to WAHA's goals of providing both member and community service, and its historic preservation mission of advocacy. Generally speaking, board members are expected to attend all WAHA board meetings (usually held the fourth Thursday of each month), help with WAHA's fundraising efforts, and share in the responsibility for WAHA's events, committees, advocacy, and social functions. We don't have many requirements: a love of historic buildings, an enthusiasm for community activities, membership in WAHA for at least six months, and a desire to preserve and improve our neighborhoods.

All Board candidates will be asked to present themselves at the election meeting in a very short speech. If you have not submitted a Candidates' Statement, you are required to be present and describe yourself and your goals. For more information about the benefits of serving on the WAHA board, please contact WAHA President John Patterson, at president@westadamsheritage.org.

Candidates' Statements

Jean Frost

I am running for reelection to the WAHA Board and hope to continue WAHA's preservation advocacy. I presently chair the WAHA Historic Preservation Committee. The Committee has responsibility for handling preservation issues and reporting to the WAHA Board. As the Chair, I work with the Committee formulating a strategy and designating a point person from the committee who will lead the team regarding a particular preservation effort.



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As a team we identify objectives, devise strategies and interface with City and State officials to present preservation minded views on legislation. Successes include the declaration of Flower Drive as an eligible California Register District and the protection of the Chester Place Historic District on its Figueroa streetscape where a developer ended his plans for a building that was inappropriate terms of massing, setback and scale. The Committee achieved modification of the plans for the project at the Bank of Tokyo, 3501 West Jefferson Boulevard. We are currently working on historic designation of the West Avenue Bridge. Infill development continues to be an aspect of land use and preservation that requires continuous monitoring.

Along with preservation advocacy which involves identifying and designating historic resources, WAHA reviews environmental notices, ordinance revisions, and planning actions and encourages official bodies to include historic preservation an a key element in planning. The Committee also holds an annual WAHA meeting celebrating preservation, which this year will be a brunch on Sunday, May 6 at the Soriano House, 3425 West 27th Street in Jefferson Park. I would like to continue to assist WAHA in these efforts and continue to encourage teamwork in our advocacy. I've lived in West Adams since 1978. Preservation really involves building a quality of life for the future that respects and builds upon the past, both architectural and culturally.

Lore Hilburg

I am running for re-election to the board for several reasons:

1. Even after restoring two homes in West Adams (1921 Prairie Craftsman in LaFayette Square and a 1924 Mediterranean in Wellington Square), I still have much to learn. Of course neither home is finished still it is a continuous work in progress. Being on the board gives me access to a wealth of knowledge and resources of materials and craftspeople. I try to soak up the knowledge of my fellow board members and long time WAHA residents.

2. Being on the board gives me insight into the worthy projects needed in WAHA and the ability to make a difference. This year I am working on the nomination of the West St. bridge in order to save it from those who want to demolish it for a temporary gain in convenience at the expense of the history and beauty of the neighborhood. I also am working on obtaining HPOZ status for Wellington

W AHA Matters

Square. Because of my participation in WAHA, I have developed skills and knowledge which are useful to my neighbors in developing fundraising tours to highlight the beauty and architectural significance of the area, even to those who have lived there much longer than I.

3. I have made some incredible friends through my association with the board. I am a person who likes to multi-task. So I get to spend time with friends and help my community, city and myself at the same time.

4. I get the self satisfaction of knowing that I am a better person than everyone else (except other board members and WAHA activists), because I am making a difference. Although I am a recognized expert at complaining, I can justify it in that, at least, I am willing to do something about all the things that are wrong with the city I love.

Jean Cade

WAHA Treasurer Jean Cade is also running for re-election to the Board. She has served WAHA for many (many) years, and has been its treasurer for several terms. Cade also has opened her home to WAHA events, large and small, numerous times over the years – ranging from Board meetings and WAHA meetings to Volunteer Recognition parties, 4th of July Picnics and WAHA tours. In December, Cade's lovely home hosted both the Annual Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner's Main Course, and also a great Soiree for members and volunteers in January.





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Art Matters

Art in Historic Places Tour

continued from page 1

Historic West Adams and nearby environs are becoming a new hotbed for fine art, with a growing number of established and emerging artists now living and/or working in the community, along with a small but steadily growing number of galleries. In this now-annual tour celebrating the arts in West Adams, visitors are invited to visit a collection of West Adams' most interesting historic places, showcasing works by some of West Adams' most talented artists, working in media and subject matter from classic to contemporary.

The tours have opened the doors of nearly two dozen architecturally diverse historic homes and buildings throughout the West Adams district, eclectically pairing historical architecture with bold, cutting-edge works and more traditional contemporary art alike, from landscapes to portraits, abstract paintings to sculpture, photography and ceramics.

For this year's tour, along with artists' own homes and studios, visitors will be invited into two important cultural institutions: The William Andrews Clark Memorial Library (which along with thousands of rare books houses two distinct and diverse art collections), and the California African American Museum, which currently has on view its Pacific Standard Time exhibit, "Places of Validation."



The Honorary Chairperson, Actor (and West Adams resident) CCH Pounder, is equally at home in art galleries and sound stages.

Pounder has led a parallel art and entertainment life for over 30 years. Known for her work in film and television (*Bagdad Cafe, End of Days, Face Off, Avatar, ER, The Shield, Warehouse13*), Pounder has also enjoyed an art life. She owned her own gallery in Los Angeles, The Pounder-Kone Art Space, for over 15 years, and co-owns the first privately run museum of contemporary art in all West Africa in Dakar, Senegal, The Boribana Museum. Through the museum Pounder was introduced to African contemporary artists and consequently showed her favorites in her gallery in Los Angeles.

A long time ago the conflict of being an artist or actress was resolved with help from her mentor, Stella Curran, who suggested to act first and paint as hobby, then when ready to give up the stage go back to painting.

It was not quite that easy. Pounder found herself painting smaller, changing mediums from water color and acrylics to art books, bead work, interior design, gardening and, best of all, introducing artists to her entertainment community. In a rough economy she closed her gallery last year, but has still jobs on the table for curating, mounting shows, and keeping her virtual gallery up to date. Discovering new artists and celebrating the world of art is Pounder's great passion.

On this tour you will discover an artists' collective that has quietly grown up right in the middle of West Adams. You'll see works by Kathe Beltran, Bryan Freeny, Chrstopher Kuhn and Nathalie Dierickx in a 1920s mixed-use commercial/residential building that was originally a Citizens National Bank branch serving Arlington Heights.

Participating artist Arthur Tobias is a lifelong ceramist making sculptural and functional forms in reduction-fired stoneware and porcelain. He has lived in West Adams since 1990. Along with a variety of hand-thrown, functional wares from mugs to jugs, in porcelain and stoneware, for the last few years he has been exploring large vase forms made with recycled clay glazed with fireplace ash, old wine bottles and slip clays from Death Valley. His inspirations range from the meat storage jars of Dave the Slave Potter to the sculpted flora and fauna framing Ghiberti's first set of Baptistery doors.

"I researched the 19th century shapes of my native Illinois when I was starting out in the '70s," says Tobias. "I have always had a fondness for the churns, crocks and jugs of that place and time. I also have long been inspired by the china coffee mugs of Mid-Western diners. They mostly came from the potteries along the Ohio River. Their simplicity and functionality has long shaped my aesthetic."



Above, top: abstraction by Christopher Kuhn; above: "Beauty," by Kim Reese; next page: "Donuts" by Josh Atlas; Ceramist Arthur Tobias in his studio

Kim Reese has been living and working in the West Adams District since 2004. She received her BA from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. Her design work took her to Minneapolis and Boston, where she worked on retail accounts in addition to environmental graphics. Reese brings a "childlike enthusiasm" to both her commercial and fine art work, which, so far, seems to be fueled by faces, skulls, words, hands, and bold color. "I deal with human struggle in my artwork. I explore ideas of death and redemption, and the mystery that comes with both. The process is almost always messy with very little planned ahead of time," she says. "Oftentimes, there is layer upon layer of color and images that are no longer visible. The layers imitate life...some faces and emotions we choose to wear on the outside, some we choose to hide. Eventually, the work shows itself to me. The mystery of it unfurling intrigues me, just like the mystery of



work shows itself to me. The mystery of it unfurling intrigues me, just like the mystery of the lives we all lead." Josh Atlas was raised in Teaneck, New Jersey, and has lived and worked in West Adams since 2010. He attended Carnegie Mellon University, where he focused on performance and video art. Since that time, he has focused on integrating comedy and art. Atlas' practice has grown to include drawing and photography to explore the funnier sides of desire. He has exhibited at HiChristina (Brooklyn), MonkeyTown (Brooklyn), and NTBA Gallery (Los Angeles). Hs artwork is about "What everybody wants: food, love, and sex. They all have the power to reach beyond reason and tug directly at the gut," explains Atlas. "Through my practice, I want to explore

the funnier sides of desire."



Check-in is again at WAHA's "pop-up gallery" at the c.1923 Majestic Pharmacy, 1824 South 4th Avenue, a restored commercial/mixed use building that today houses Gramercy Housing Group/PATH. This is a selfguided drive-yourself (or bike-yourself) tour, with a brochure and map that will guide visitors to these historic venues, toured in any order and at their own pace. Visitors are encouraged to set aside several hours to enjoy the tour.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and can be purchased on WAHA's website, www.WestAdamsHeritage.org. It will cost you \$30 at the door. All participants (tour visitors, artists, homeowners and volunteers) are invited to join CCH Pounder and WAHA for an Artists' Reception after the tour.

Write tours@westadamsheritage.org for more information, or to volunteer on the day of the tour. ●

West Adams' Landmarks of African American History



WAHA presents West Adams' Landmarks of African American History, a compendium of photos and brief biographies of more than 70 prominent African Americans who lived in the West Adams area of Los Angeles and their homes. Also included are many buildings of historical importance to the African American community.

Inside the pages of West Adams: Landmarks of African American History, you'll learn about religious and civic institutions that play significant roles in West Adams' (and Los Angeles') black heritage, along with civil rights leaders, entertainers, sports figures, wartime heroes, and trailblazers in their fields and who all helped change the face of Los Angeles. 44 pages, 8-1/2 X 11, glossy, full color throughout. \$10. Purchase at www.WestAdamsHeritage.org (click on "WAHA store"— "WAHA books").



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WAHA....Creating Our Future by Preserving Our Past

Membership Application

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Los Angeles, CA 90018

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We support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and seek to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques.



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WAHA CLASSIFIEDS

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Half Page: \$100 monthly; \$900 annually
1/4 Page (4¹/₂ x 4¹/₂): \$60 monthly; \$540 annually
Business Card (3³/₄ x 2¹/₄): \$30 monthly, \$270 annually
The deadline for ad content is the 1st of the prior month.

Please Note: WAHA does not endorse or claim responsibility for any of the services, products or items for sale that advertisers have listed in these pages.

FOR SALE: free-standing, cast-concrete, three-tier fountain. Add a water feature to your garden and enjoy the cooling, relaxing sound of water. It is dis-assembled for easy transport (although it is well made and very heavy!). The design is simple and will compliment almost any style house/garden. \$250. Call Mitzi at 323-734-9980.

Need a reliable sitter who can watch your kids and drive them to wherever they need to be? Or someone who can clean your home without having to worry about things getting stolen? Call Suzanne at 323-731-5541.

100s of doors for sale. Call Roland, (323) 804-6070.

Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservationminded readers. Contact lauramink@aol.com, NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.

WAHA's Spring 2012 Calendar for History Buffs and Preservation Advocates (Please DO Save These Dates!)

MARCH

Saturday, March 24: WAHA's 3rd Annual Art in Historic Places Tour

APRIL

Sunday, April 1: WAHA Election Meeting

Saturday-Sunday, April 21-22: L.A. Times Festival of Books at USC

Sunday, April 29: Heritage Day at Heritage Square

MAY

Thursday-Saturday, May 3-5: California Preservation Foundation Annual Conference in Oakland

Sunday, May 6: WAHA's Annual Preservation Brunch

Saturday, May 19: Annual HPOZ Conference

JUNE

Saturday, June 2 WAHA's Annual Spring Historic Homes & Architecture Tour Sunday, June 3

Home & Garden Tour in Western Heights



The Mrs. Susan Wilshire Residence, a 1912 Colonial Revival, is one of the featured historic properties on this year's Art in Historic Places Tour.

WAHA....Creating Our Future by Preserving Our Past

alendar

Upcoming Events

See page 11 for WAHA's full Spring calendar

APRIL

Sunday, April 1: WAHA Election Meeting at Odd Fellows Temple -Casa Camino Real (see page 1)



Odd Fellows Temple in the 1920s

Sunday, April 29:

L.A. Heritage Day (see page 3)

MAY

Sunday, May 6: WAHA's Annual Preservation Brunch

JUNE Saturday, June 2: WAHA's Annual Spring Historic Homes & Architecture Tour

WAHA's 3rd Annual Art in Historic Places Tour

Saturday, March 24 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



The Arts in West Adams: Pattern, Decoration and Diversity

Tour historical buildings filled with great art and fashion from today and yesteryear.

(See page 1 for complete information)



The William Andrews Clark Memorial Library will open its doors for the Art in Historic Places tour

WAHA....Creating Our Future by Preserving Our Past

The WAHA Matters Newsletter is a publication of the West Adams Heritage Association. Members and supporters of WAHA are invited to submit articles to the Newsletter. Letters will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 2012. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.



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