

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

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DRAFT

January 15, 2015

Christina Morris, Los Angeles Field Director
National Trust for Historic Preservation
700 South Flower Street, Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Ms. Morris,

As a broad coalition of community stakeholders, we are pleased to have an opportunity to partner with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to help develop the path forward for the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe. We have appreciated your presentations to the community about the Treasures process and appreciate your openness to a Museum as a viable option. As you know, the option the community has unanimity around and has worked diligently for over the past decade is a vibrant, sustainable museum-centered solution that is based on the vast Collection holdings of the former Southwest Museum. We believe the community is a vital and valuable contributing partner to the Trust as well as to this upcoming process.

Moving forward, as a community, we are quite willing to engage in a process of discovery for the future of the Southwest and Casa, however we feel we should let you know that we also have some limits. We would ask that the Trust's process consider a museum option upfront, with a comprehensive evaluation to define the advantages and any barriers that stand in the way of this solution, before embarking seriously upon other options. This would streamline the process (and necessary resources) significantly. If there are barriers, work can focus on collectively overcoming these.

We, the community, offer our acquired wisdom and ideas now, as you begin to shape the process. We offer our time, research, passion and energy as well as resources that might be necessary for a successful process. We want to work together to find a win-win solution as soon as possible with the Trust, Autry, City and every other viable partner. We look to the National Trust and yourself to be an impartial mediator and sage collaborator. Putting the toughest issues on the table first may be the wisest path forward. The sharing and displaying of the vast Southwest Museum collection in Mount Washington in the structures that were built explicitly for that purpose is pivotal to the solution and to optimize the public's enjoyment. The community cares passionately about the entire Southwest Museum collection and this needs explicit, early clarification in the process.

Together we can work towards a vibrant future for the Southwest Museum and Casa that we all can be proud of and that the local and greater Los Angeles community loves. Together we can help build a future that honors the legacy of Charles Lummis and our Arroyo Communities and provides a place of inspiration, compassion and intellectual exploration for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

Monica Alcaraz, President of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

Highland Park Heritage Trust
Friends of Southwest Museum Roundtable
El Plan
Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council
Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council
Glassell Park Neighborhood Council
Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council
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Highland Park Chamber of Commerce
Mt. Washington Homeowners Alliance
Montecito Heights Improvement Association
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LA 32 Neighborhood Council (El Sereno)
Highland Park Kiwanis
Los Feliz Kiwanis
Silver Lake Kiwanis