

BOARD REPORT

NO. 23-062

DATE March 16, 2023

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH PARK – APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF RODGER YOUNG VILLAGE EDUCATIONAL SIGN IMPROVEMENTS AS A DONATION FROM THE GRIFFITH J. GRIFFITH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION AND THE LOS ANGELES PARKS FOUNDATION TO BE INSTALLED AT THE AUTRY MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN WEST – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 11(5) [SIGNS LOCATED ON CITY PROPERTY MANAGED BY A CITY DEPARTMENT WHICH HAS A SIGN POLICY ADOPTED BY ITS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15311(a) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

B. Aguirre	_____	M. Rudnick	_____
		<i>for</i> C. Santo Domingo	<i>DF</i>
B. Jackson	_____	N. Williams	_____



 General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

If Approved: Board President _____ Board Secretary _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the proposed park improvement project (Project) at the Autry Museum of the American West (Autry Museum) in Griffith Park, consisting of the installation of an educational sign regarding the Rodger Young Village to be displayed for a term of ten (10) years as more fully described in this Report and as shown in Attachments 3 and 4 of this Report, to be installed outside the Autry Museum at the location specified in Attachment 5 of this Report (“Improvements”);

2. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), Planning, Maintenance, and Construction Branch (PMC), upon the Project’s approval from the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners’ (Board), to issue a Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to the Los Angeles Park Foundation and their selected contractors and/or vendors (collectively, “Contractors”), authorizing the installation of the Improvements;

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3. Accept the Improvements valued up to approximately Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), subject to a post-completion inspection of the installed Improvements by PMC staff, as a donation to RAP from the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Foundation and the Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF);
4. Determine that the Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) [Signs located on City property managed by a City department which has a sign policy adopted by its Board of Commissioners] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;
5. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) Chief Accounting Employee or designee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) for the purpose of filing an NOE;
6. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

The Autry Museum of the American West is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way in the Griffith Park community of the City. RAP entered into a Fifty (50) year Lease Agreement with the Autry Museum in January 1987.

Background on Rodger Young Village

Private Rodger Young fought in the South West Pacific theater of World War II. During the Battle of Munda Point on July 31, 1943, Private Young's infantry company was ordered to make a limited withdrawal from the battle line in order to adjust the battalion's position for the night. At this time, Private Young's platoon was engaged with the enemy in a dense jungle where observation was very limited. The platoon suddenly was pinned down by intense fire from a Japanese machine gun concealed on higher ground only 75 yards away. The initial burst wounded Private Young. As the platoon started to obey the order to withdraw, Private Young called out that he could see the enemy emplacement, whereupon he started creeping toward it. Another burst from the machine gun wounded him the second time. Despite the wounds, he continued his heroic advance, attracting enemy fire and answering with rifle fire. When he was close enough to his objective, he began throwing hand grenades and while doing so was hit again and killed. Private Young's bold action in closing with this Japanese pillbox and thus diverting its fire, permitted his platoon to disengage itself, without loss and was responsible for several enemy casualties. On January 6, 1944 Private Young was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

During the war, thousands of men and women left Southern California to serve their country. At the same time, thousands more men and women came to Southern California to acquire work in factories in order to support the war effort. Since raw materials were needed for weapons, aircraft, and other war-related goods, construction of new housing ceased during the war. This created a

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housing shortage for veterans returning home after their service. Although this shortage soon spurred a housing boom, returning veterans needed housing immediately. The Los Angeles City Housing Authority responded by building housing projects that offered affordable and temporary housing for veterans and their families.

One such public housing project was Rodger Young Village. Built on a former airfield in Griffith Park and dedicated on April 27, 1946, it quickly became home to over 5,000 residents. The community consisted of 750 Quonset huts, as well as a market, pharmacy, barber shop, hardware shop, movie theater, church, elementary school, plus delivery services for milk, diapers, and baked goods. Open to veterans of all races and branches of the military, Rodger Young Village was one of the most diverse communities in Southern California at the time. Adults and children befriended their neighbors with little regard to their ethnic background, educational levels, or personal beliefs. Such acceptance of diversity helped end the practice of racial segregation in many local restaurants. Residents often went to nearby eateries to dine with their neighbors, and if a restaurant refused to serve someone in their party, the entire group would leave and often never return. Restaurants, faced with losing business, dropped discriminatory policies.

Proposed Signage Improvements

In an ongoing attempt to bring awareness to the historical relevance of the Rodger Young Village, the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust and the Los Angeles Parks Foundation have proposed the installation of the Improvements at the Autry Museum. The Public Art Application and Artist Waiver are shown as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. The Improvements include the proposed signage as shown in Attachment 3 which will be installed on a metal frame as depicted in Attachment 4, which are more fully described below. The Improvements will be installed at the Autry Museum in an area adjacent to a walking path near the southern courtyard of the museum, as shown in Attachment 5. The Autry Museum has agreed to the placement of the Improvements at the museum and have provided a letter of support for its installation.

SIGNAGE FUNDING & MAINTENANCE

The LAPF has received a generous donation from the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Foundation (GJG) consisting of the educational sign Improvements which will be placed on a pedestal frame and installed in the adjacent courtyard to the Autry Museum. A rendering of the sign as well as where the sign will be installed is set forth in Attachments 3, 4 and 5, respectively. The GJG, responsible for funding a variety of improvements and restorations in Griffith Park, has donated \$15,000 towards construction and installation of the Improvements. The LAPF, through its contractors, will be responsible for installing the Improvements. LAPF has submitted a signed Waiver of Rights from the artist as part of the application process, and therefore RAP reserves the right to remove the sign if it is not maintained to RAP standards.

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Characteristics of the proposed rectangular signage is as follows:

- Custom High-Pressure Laminate panels with matte finishing
- 1/8" (inch) thick exterior panel
- 24" (inches) in height
- 36" (inches) in width
- Standard eased edge .03" (inch) rounded radius corners

Characteristics of the signage frame is as follows:

- Double cantilever pedestal (45-degree angle)
- 54" (inch) tall posts from the ground to top of sign
- In-ground mount
- Black powder coat

The design for the sign was done in consultation with Clare Darden, a member of the GJG Charitable Trust, and James Mansfield of Cartifact. Darden was responsible for the photo selections on the sign, taken from the Los Angeles Public Library website, as well as designing the layout and placement of pictures and informational language. The color scheme was intended to fit the outside aesthetic of the environment, by using similar background colors of a softer hue to blend in with the museum building. The maintenance associated with the sign is expected to be very low, with design colors chosen specifically to withstand color weathering from sun exposure. The sign utilizes iZone Imaging's Custom High-Pressure Laminate (CHPL), which offers unparalleled resistance to scratches, fingerprints, graffiti, UV light, and weather. The Autry Museum will be responsible for any maintenance to the sign. The proposed signage will be installed for a period of ten (10) years.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The proposed signage was presented to the Griffith Park Advisory Board on October 27, 2022 and later presented to the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council on January 16, 2023. Both neighborhood councils support the proposed installation as shown in Attachment 6.

RAP has also received letters of support from the Office of Council District 4 and the Autry Museum, as shown in Attachment 6.

On December 15, 2022, the proposed signage was presented to the RAP Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force (Task Force), and was granted conceptual approval.

Upon approval of this Report, RAP staff will issue the appropriate Right-of-Entry (ROE) permits to LAPF for the installation of the Improvements at the Autry Museum.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of a sign located on City property managed by a City department which has a sign policy adopted by its Board of Commissioners.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved on February 23, 2023, this site is not within a coastal, methane, or historic zone; the area, however, resides in a liquefaction zone. The construction of this Project will not create conditions that could lead to liquefaction, so there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of February 23, 2023, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site, but have listed RB Case #: 900270207 near the Project area (within 500 feet). The case was closed in 2020 and the project does not pose any threat related to contaminated soil or water. According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map there is no scenic highway located within the vicinity of the proposed Project or within its site. Furthermore, the proposed Project is located in Griffith Park, a Historic Cultural Monument of the City of Los Angeles (HCM #942). The installation of the sign is not expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of this historical resource.

Based in this information, staff recommends that the Board determine that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of this Report will have no fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund as costs for the installation of the Improvements will be the responsibility of GJG and LAPF, and costs for any maintenance will be the responsibility of the Autry Museum.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

Goal No. 3: Create & Maintain World Class Parks and Facilities

Outcome No. 3: Increased park maintenance, with a focus on cleanliness.

Result: The Los Angeles Parks Foundation sheds light on the history of Griffith Park and serves as a worthwhile addition to the growing educational and informational signage throughout the park.

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This report was prepared by Robert Eastland, Management Assistant, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Attachment 1 – Public Art Application
- 2) Attachment 2 – Artist Waiver
- 3) Attachment 3 – Signage Rendering
- 4) Attachment 4 – Frame Rendering
- 5) Attachment 5 – Site Map
- 6) Attachment 6 – Letters of Support

CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch

Public Art Application (Rev. 08/2014)Date: 9/30/22

1. Applicant: (Individual name or organization, address, email, telephone):

LOS ANGELES PARKS FOUNDATION, 2650 N COMMONWEALTH AVE. LOS ANGELES, CA 90027
ESTEFANY @ LAPARKSFOUNDATION.ORG, 310-472-1990

2. Project Title/Description (attach separate sheet if required):

GRIFFITH J GRIFFITH RODGER YOUNG VILLAGE INFORMATION PLACARD3. Project Location/Street Address: ANTRY MUSEUM, GRIFFITH PARK, 4700 WESTERN HERITAGE WAY
LOS ANGELES, CA 900274. Council District of Project Location: CD4

5. Artist(s) Information (attach separate sheet for multiple entries, if required):

Name: N/A Address: _____

Email(s): _____ Telephone(s): _____

6. Estimated Cost of Project (Materials, Labor, Insurance, etc.): \$15,0007. Expected Length of Time for Installation: 1 WEEK8. Expected Lifespan of Project: (3 years, 5 years, 7 years, other,) 10 year maximum: 10 YRS

9. Who will be responsible for maintaining the project during its lifespan? (attach separate sheet if required)

Name: _____ Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

10. Do you have a signed contract with the artist regarding the proposed project? Y or N11. Do you have a signed contract with the artist addressing the duration the project will remain in place, project maintenance, and/or removal of the project from park property? Y or N

12. If "Yes" to either of 10 or 11 above, please attach one (1) copy of each contract.

13. See "Required Documentation" sheet for additional information and requirements.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch

Public Art Proposal Required Documentation (Rev. 08/2014)

All requested items and copies of requested documents must be submitted to RAP before an application can be processed and scheduled for an initial review.

A. Application Form;

N/A ~~B.~~ Artist(s) Resume(s) – please be sure the resumes list other past public art projects the artists have done, with descriptions, locations, and dates of each project.

N/A ~~C.~~ Relevant Press – one review (one page maximum) of the artist's work or the applicant's work.

D. Written Narrative (maximum two pages) – in the order they appear below. Please address and include a description of the following items:

1. Funding Source(s) – Identify all funding sources such as grants, fund-raised monies, or donations and include whether these funds are committed or proposed.

N/A ~~2.~~ Artist Selection Process – How was the artist selected? How many artists were interviewed/considered?

3. Design – How was it derived?

4. Community Context – How does the design fit within the existing environment in terms of size, color, surrounding building types, materials, theme, community culture or architectural design, etc.

N/A ~~5.~~ Production Process – How will the proposed wall/area be prepared? What type of medium will be used? Who will do the actual production – the artist, the artist and assistants, or the artist and students?

6. Maintenance – Identify (name, address, email, telephone) the individual who will arrange to have the project cleaned and/or repaired. With what funds and for how long is this maintenance commitment? Describe the process you have developed to maintain the installation over its lifespan. Attach a signed letter or other documentation from the individual responsible for this maintenance commitment indicating his/her acceptance of this responsibility.

7. Agreement Regarding Anti-Graffiti Coating – Application of an anti-graffiti coating is mandatory. Attach a letter or other correspondence showing that an anti-graffiti coating has been arranged.

E. Detailed Sketch and/or Drawing – Colors and details must be accurately indicated and rendering must be to scale. Indicate the precise area of the park where the project is proposed. Provide a photograph of the proposed location with an overlay of the proposed project at scale. (7 copies)

F. Color Photographs of the Site and Surroundings – Show adjacent buildings, buildings across the street, and local landmarks that indicate the flavor of the neighborhood. (7 copies)

Public Art Proposal Required Documentation

1. The funding source is Griffith J Griffith Charitable Trust. We're grateful for ongoing support from the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust which funds a variety of improvements and programs in Griffith Park. The Trust has helped fund many ongoing renovations and restorations in Griffith Park (one of the country's largest urban parks).
2. Artist selection process – N/A
3. The design for the information placard was done in consultation with Clare Darden (GJG Charitable Trust member) and James Mansfield (Cartifact). Clare Darden, has previous graphic designing skills, and helped choose the pictures (taken from public Los Angeles Public Library website). Additionally, she helped design the format for the placement of the pictures and the placement of the language (provided by Mike Eberts, GP's renowned historian). Once it was completed, James Mansfield created a digital copy of Clare Darden's design.
4. The design fits within the existing environment by using background colors that fit the outside aesthetic of the environment. They are of a softer hue to blend in with the building, and shrubs that will surround the information placard stand. The information placard also discusses the previous history of the location that now houses the Autry Museum, speaking to the historical

background and informs the public about an issue that has become more prevalent of our times. Additionally, the information placard is designed and manufactured by the same contractor/vendor that has already been involved in previous information placards and trail signs around Griffith Park.

5. Production process – N/A
6. Maintenance – low-maintenance, the information placard and design colors were chosen to withstand any color weathering from sun exposure and is weather resistant.
7. iZone Imaging's Custom High-Pressure Laminate (CHPL) offers unparalleled resistance to scratches, fingerprints, graffiti, UV light, and weather. Guaranteed to hold up for at least 10 years, it is the ideal medium for creating the signs and graphics that transform ordinary outdoor spaces into the kinds of rich, enjoyable experiences people expect from their parks and recreation areas, themed environments, and other public spaces.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch

Artist Waiver for Public Art, Murals, Monuments, and Memorial Plaques (Rev. 08/2014)

Waiver of Proprietary Rights for Artwork Placed upon City Property

The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to modify Artist's rights of attribution and integrity as set out in the Visual Artists Rights Act, 17 U.S.C. §§106A and 113(d) ("VARA"), the California Art Preservation Act, Cal. Civil Code §§ 987 and 989 ("CAPA"), and any rights arising under United States federal or state law or under the laws of another country that convey rights of the same nature as those conveyed under VARA and CAPA, as against the City of Los Angeles ("City") and its agents.

The City has the absolute right to change, modify, destroy, remove, relocate, move, replace, transport, repair or restore the [describe the artwork/project: mural, sculpture, etc. and medium]:

Rodger Young Village Sign

Entitled [title of work]: Rodger Young Village Sign

And located at [identify site, including interior location if applicable]: Autry Museum


In whole or in part, in City's sole discretion.

Artist's Address for Notice:

Autry Museum, Griffith Park, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Artist bears the sole responsibility for providing the City with any changes to the Artist's Address for Notice. Notice of changes must be mailed to the Department of Recreation and Parks, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch, 221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

 12/8/22
Artist Signature/Date Stephen Aron

 2/7/2023
Recreation and Parks Signature/Date President and CEO

Before there was an Autry Museum, the current Los Angeles Zoo or Interstate 5, this broad, flat portion of Griffith Park was an airfield, first for pioneering aviators and later for the National Guard. This site – aircraft hangers and all – became the

Rodger Young Village

By 1946, the shortage of veterans housing was at near-disaster levels and there was a shortage of building materials. The answer was Quonset huts, inexpensive corrugated metal structures designed to be erected quickly during wartime. The former airfield – more than 100 acres that were already connected to gas, water, and sewer lines – was the perfect place to put them. In barely more than two months, some 1,500 Quonset huts were assembled and divided in half, creating 3,000 homes. Rent was \$34 a month unfurnished, \$40 furnished.

A small town was constructed with wartime speed. It was named for Rodger Young, a World War II private who posthumously won the Congressional Medal of Honor by drawing fatal fire so that the rest of his cornered platoon could escape. The Rodger Young Village was dedicated on April 27, 1946, with numerous Hollywood celebrities – including Jack Benny, Bette Davis, Lena Horne, and Dinah Shore – in attendance.

Consequently, the two aviation hangars were converted into a market, pharmacy, barber shop, hardware store, movie theater, church, elementary school, thrift shop, and other businesses, and services. A shop supplying goods and services for newborns – including a diaper delivery service – was particularly popular. In 1946, the proprietor of the shop (a veteran's wife) estimated there were 500 expectant mothers in the village.

The village had a large number of small children. In its first year of operation, the village's grammar school had a student body of 977, making it far larger than the long-established Los Feliz Elementary School south of the park.

The village was officially shut down on March 14, 1954, as the Los Angeles area veterans housing emergency was declared over.



When not at home, children played at the village playground, rode their bicycles on village streets or gave themselves a treat at the village ice cream parlor. And just outside the village were the trails of Griffith Park and the Los Angeles River (unobstructed by freeways). The racial and ethnic diversity of the village was also noteworthy, outpacing nearby neighborhoods.



Each 80-foot-long, 20-foot-wide hut was divided into two dwellings. Each had two bedrooms, one bath, a living room, and a kitchen. Furnished units came with an icebox (not a refrigerator), a stove, and some surplus military furniture. Each unit had a shaded porch, and about five feet of lawn in front of it. Most residents relied on telephone booths located about 100 feet apart.



Many village residents – adults and children – put considerable effort into turning their Quonset huts into homes. The village thrift shop was the source of some furnishings.

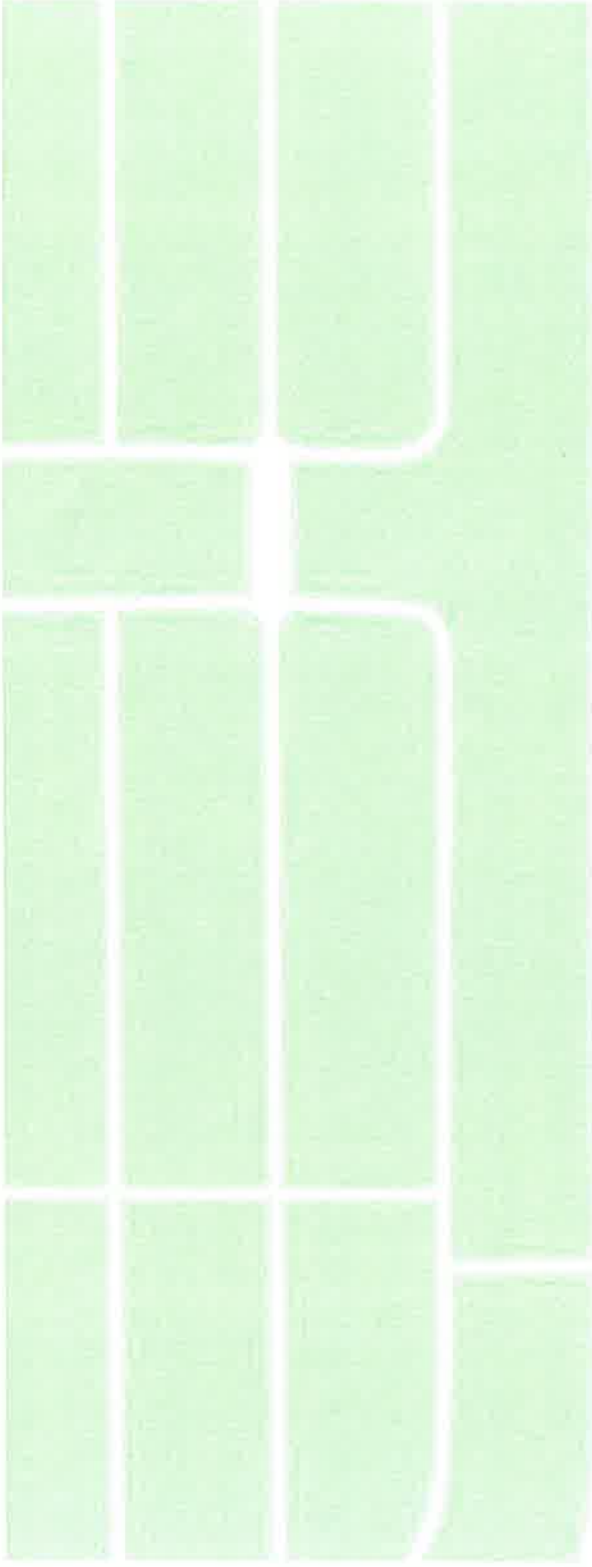


THIS INTERPRETIVE MARKER HAS BEEN DONATED BY THE GRIFFITH J. GRIFFITH CHARITABLE TRUST, 2022.







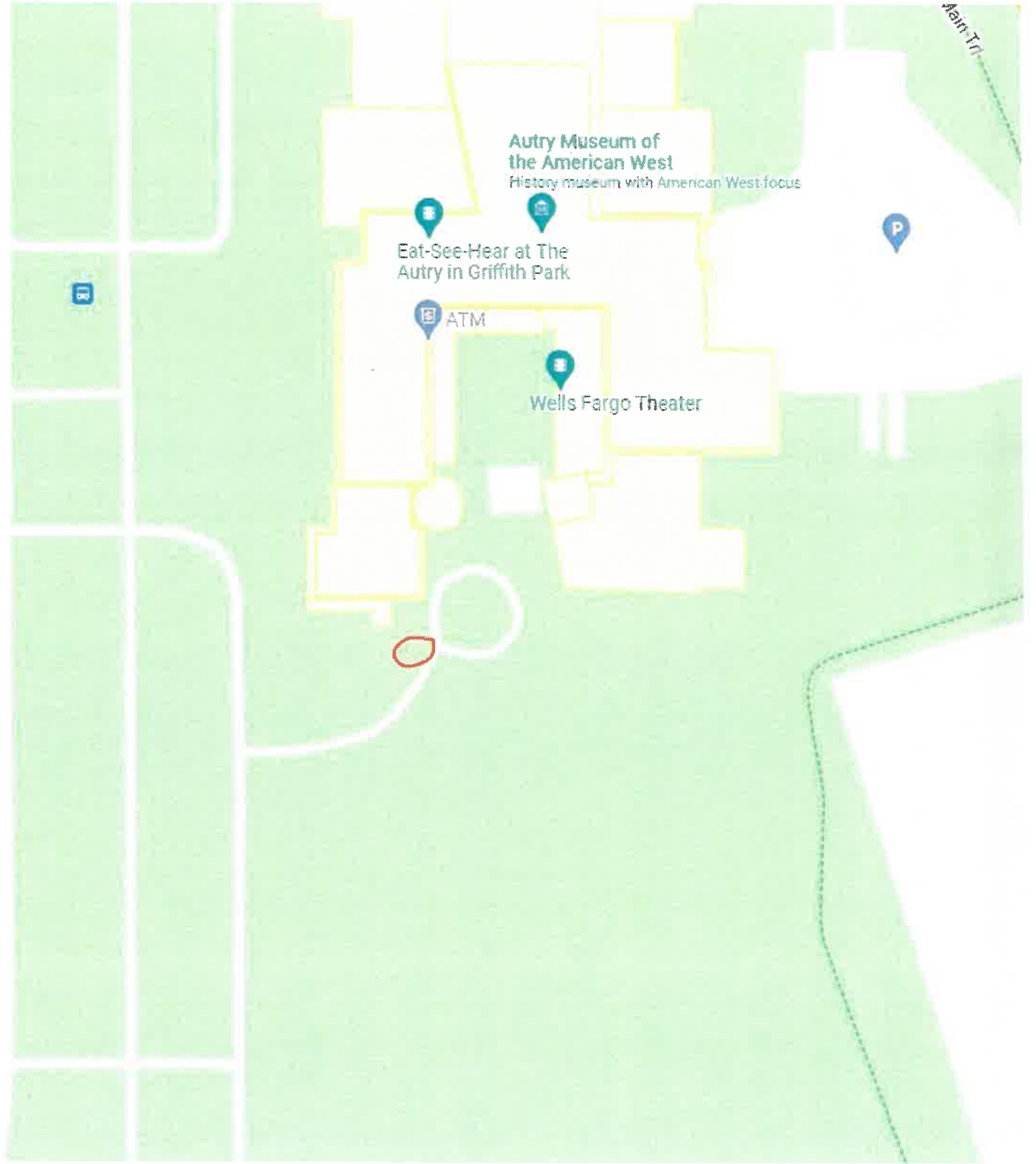


itage Way

Western Heritage Way

Western Heritage Way

Western Heritage Way



Autry Museum of the American West
History museum with American West focus

Eat-See-Hear at The Autry in Griffith Park

ATM

Wells Fargo Theater

Main Trail



Griffith Park Advisory Board

Community Stewards of LA's Largest Park & Great Urban Wilderness
Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles
www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory

November 9, 2022

Los Angeles Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

Dear Commissioners,

Over the past year, numerous stakeholders have come together in support of projects that highlight the rich history of Griffith Park. One such project continues a trend of improving educational signage throughout the park, an endeavor we wholly support. So many Angelenos rely on Griffith Park as an outlet and resource in their daily lives, and tapping into its many, varied stories brings yet another important aspect of this beloved park to life.

Long before the Autry Museum, the present-day LA Zoo, or the collection of nearby freeways, the northeast portion of Griffith Park was an airfield. In 1946, a housing crisis for returning veterans highlighted the need for emergency housing. Thankfully this 100-acre airfield, which was already connected to gas, water, and sewer lines, provided an ideal solution. In barely two months, 1,500 Quonset huts were assembled to ultimately house 5,000 residents. The village was named for Rodger Young, a World War II private who posthumously won the Congressional Medal of Honor for drawing fatal fire so that the rest of his cornered platoon could escape.

With the help and hard work of the LA Parks Foundation, funding from the Griffith J Griffith Charitable trust, and of course the leadership of RAP staff, this fascinating story will be on display outside the Autry Museum. GPAB views this installation as a worthwhile addition to the growing educational and informational signage throughout the park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Crames".

Michelle Crames
Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

cc: RAP: Jimmy Kim; Matthew Rudnick; Brenda Aguirre; Cathie Santo Domingo; Darryl Ford; Stefanie Smith; CD4: Emma Taylor; LAPF: Carolyn Ramsay

BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Michelle Crames; Vice Chair – Karen Thornton; Secretary – Chris Laib; Aida Ashouri; Aaron Chung; Alex Crow; Gene Gilbert; Jason Greenwald; Alex Phillips

November 11, 2022

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
221 N Figueroa Street, Suite 350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To Whom it May Concern:

Today, I am writing in support of the Rodger Young Village informational placard proposed to be installed on the grounds of the Autry Museum of the American West, property that is leased by the Autry from the City of Los Angeles.

As an institution that seeks to inform and engage residents of Los Angeles on the history of our region and our people, we look forward to educating our visitors about the land on which the Autry Museum now sits.

As the President and CEO of the Autry Museum of the American West, I am proud to strongly support the Rodger Young Village informational placard.

Sincerely,



Stephen Aron
Calvin and Marilyn Gross Director and President and CEO
Autry Museum of the American West
Professor of History Emeritus, UCLA

Direct: 323.495.4302 • saron@theautry.org



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Dan McNamara - Administration

SECRETARY
Amanda Blide

January 16, 2023

Attn: General Manager Jimmy Kim
221 Figueroa Street, Suite 350
Los Angeles, CA 90012
City, CA 00000

Re: Rodger Young Village Placard

Dear Mr. Kim

The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council supports the Rodger Young Village informational placard proposed to be installed on the grounds of the Autry Museum of the American West, property that is leased by the Autry from the City of Los Angeles.

We enjoyed the [presentation](#) from the LA Parks Foundation explaining the history of the Rodger Young Village and its role in housing veterans after World War II. We wish even more history could be shared on the placard and would even recommend an addition of a QR code that could lead a reader to more information. We also find the history relevant given that we continue to face a housing crisis.

We further understand the placard is supported by the Autry and the LA Parks Foundation and the Griffith J Griffith Charitable Trust and understand it'll be properly maintained. Thus, we believe this will be a wonderful and inspirational piece of history to share with all who visit Griffith Park.

Sincerely,


Jon Deutsch, President
Los Feliz Neighborhood Council

By:

Meggan Ellingboe
Recreation Representative
Cc: LARAP Comm., CD 4



February 3rd, 2023

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department Board of Commissioners
221 N. Figueroa St, Ste 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council District 4 Letter of Support for Rodger Young Village Historical Placard

Dear Commissioners,

I am pleased to support an Historical Placard located near the Autry Museum to commemorate the Rodger Young Village, a temporary housing facility of “Quonset Huts” that housed returning service-members and their families after World War II (WWII). This project is being funded from the GJG Charitable Trust and LA Parks Foundation.

The historical placard is 24 H x 36 W and will be installed in-ground. It contains relevant history gathered with the help of Griffith Park’s renowned historian, Mike Eberts and Autry’s chief curator, Dr. Carolyn Brucken as well as selected pictures picked from Los Angeles Public Library.

Before it was the Autry Museum and the I-5 freeway, the location formerly known as the Rodger Young Village was home to returning WWII veterans and their families. During WWII, thousands of men and women came to Southern California to work in factories to support the war effort. Due to tons of raw materials being used for weapons, aircraft, and other related goods, construction of new housing stopped during the war. This created a housing shortage for veterans returning to the area after the end of WWII. So immediately, the Los Angeles City Housing Authority stepped up by building housing projects that offered affordable yet temporary housing for veterans and their young families. Rodger Young Village, named after an infantryman in the U.S. Army killed during World War II, was one such public housing project and it was established on April 27, 1946, consisting of 1,500 Quonset Huts. It eventually shut down on March 14, 1954, as the veterans housing emergency in Los Angeles was declared over.

We hope you will support this new historical placard in Griffith Park.

Sincerely,

Nithya Raman
LA City Councilmember, 4th District