Cultural Heritage Board Activities - 2018
June 18, 2019

Prepared by: Steve Lech, Chairman

The Cultural Heritage Board (Board) continued to review and consider a broad range of cases in 2018, including Certificate of Appropriateness reviews for commercial and residential properties and historic designations. The Board continues to see high quality projects reflective of the on-going commitment of the Board and City staff to implement the goals and objectives of the City's General Plan, the Riverside Municipal Code and Citywide Design Guidelines. Following is a summary of Cultural Heritage Board activities for calendar year 2018.

General Overview

The Cultural Heritage Board (Board) reviewed 9 Certificate of Appropriateness applications in 2018, compared with 21 in 2017 which included several Code Enforcement cases to bring historic properties into compliance. The Board also reviewed and recommended City Landmark designation of 5 properties in 2018 compared with 0 in 2017. One Structure of Merit was also designated in 2018.

A summary of highlighted projects reviewed and approved by the Board includes:

Certificate of Appropriateness Review

1. Magnolia Avenue Presbyterian Ramp - New ADA compliant ramp along the west elevation of the original Magnolia Avenue Presbyterian Church

2. New Main Library – New three story, 42,000 sq. ft. library within the Seventh Street Historic District

3. Adaptive Reuse of the Former Fire Station No. 4 – Conversion of the former fire station into a dentist office, including the installation of new entry door

4. Mission Inn Townhomes – 13 residential units on a vacant lot within the Seventh Street Historic District

5. Parking lot expansion at 4154 Twelfth Street – Demolition of a non-contributor to the Evergreen Historic District to facilitate a parking lot expansion

6. Foursquare Gospel Church - Demolish an existing accessory building which is a remnant of a burned down church

7. CBU Study Place – New three story, 48,000 sq. ft. library/study facility within the eligible CBU Historic District

8. CBU South Campus Housing – New six story, 182,555 sq. ft. student housing building within the eligible CBU Historic District

9. RPU Street Light project - Replacement/reconfiguration of historic street light standards within historic districts, that are in poor condition and inefficient related to energy use

Historic Designations

1. City Landmark
   a) Riverside Public Library – Main Branch, 3581 Mission Inn Avenue
   b) Gore Manor, 2530 Prince Albert Drive
   c) Bigelow's Bungalow, 4625 Glenwood Drive
   d) E.T. Wall Packing House, 3280 Vine Street
   e) The Harbor, 3014 Pine Street
2. City Structure of Merit - Walton-Merriman House, 6240 Hawarden Drive

Workshops/Training:

The following workshops were presented to the Cultural Heritage Board:

1. California Environmental Quality Act Basics, as it relates to Cultural Resources
2. Historic Preservation Fund Status Report
3. Museum Departments vision for the Metropolitan Museum
4. Update on the RPU Street light upgrade to LED fixtures

Additional Activities

In addition to the cases reviewed and the training completed, Cultural Heritage Board staff undertook the following:

1. Latino Context Statement, a Certified Local Government Grant funded project, to help increase the understanding of the City's History

2. Community outreach efforts including 3rd Annual Doors Open event which saw 25 buildings opened for free tours

3. Revisions and simplification of the Mills Act application with a total of 6 Mills Act contracts awarded (5 in 2017)

4. 50th Anniversary celebration for the CHB with a presentation to City Council and reception in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room to recognize the CHB as one of the oldest historical commissions in the State of California

Anticipated 2019 Calendar Year Projects

1. Designation and adaptive reuse of the Farm House Motel
2. Additional historic designation applications
3. Adaptive reuse of the historic Fire Station No. 1
4. Adaptive reuse of the historic gas station at First and Main streets