



CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 14, 2021
To: Historic Site Preservation Board
From: Ken Lyon, RA, Associate Planner, Historic Preservation Officer *Kenly*
Subject: **Work Program 2021 / 2022**

BACKGROUND:

Each summer staff and members of the HSPB develop a work plan to focus and set priorities for the Board's efforts and activities through the coming fiscal year. The work program typically contains two parts: (1) community education / outreach and (2) sites to consider for recommendation to City Council for historic designation. At its October 6, 2020 meeting the Board established the following list of sites it chose for the FY 20 / 21 period:

1. Korakia Pensione
2. Araby Adobe / Rock Houses
3. Gas Company Building
4. Willard Moorten Residence
5. Fire Station #4.

At its meeting of June 1, 2021, the Board amended its FY 20 / 21 work plan to include the Security First National Bank (aka Union Bank of California); setting the priorities as follows; removing Fire Station #4 for consideration in a subsequent work program.

1. Korakia Pensione
2. Araby Adobe / Rock Houses
3. Security First National Bank Building
4. Gas Company Building
5. Willard Moorten Residence

Staff has initiated professional services contracts for eligibility reports for Korakia, Araby Rock / Adobe Houses, and peer review report on Security Bank and will be bringing these forward for the board's consideration at subsequent meetings.

Education and outreach efforts were focused on the annual symposium, placing an information booth at the Modernism Show at the Convention Center for Modernism Week (cancelled due to COVID), staff outreach to the Realtors board and "One PS" neighborhood organization group and continued coordination of installation of historic markers at designated sites.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRIORITY SITES TO PURSUE CLASS 1 DESIGNATION FOR FY 20/21:

In recommending and prioritizing possible sites to pursue Class 1 historic site designation, consider:

- Sites that further the purpose of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.¹
- Sites that are rare or unusual, “one-of-a-kind”, possess particularly notable characteristics, or are uniquely “Palm Springs”. (Review the Class 3 list).
- Sites that are historically significant but under-recognized, or little known by the public.
- Sites that, through designation, can become catalysts for economic development and/or neighborhood improvement / revitalization.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EDUCATION & OUTREACH FOR FY 21 / 22

1. Conduct revised Staff / Board presentation to the Realtor’s Board about Historic Preservation and real estate activities relative to ordinance revisions.
2. Continue participation in Modernism Week Modernism Show at the Convention Center (if scheduled). (October 2021 and February 2022).
3. Continue to produce the annual “Preservation Matters” symposium.
4. Place PDF’s of informational handouts on the “Historic Resources” portion of the City website.
5. Individual board member participation in continuing education through OHP, CPF, webinars, on-line workshops, etc.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTHER INITIATIVES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR FY 20/21:

1. Apply for a grant from the Certified Local Government program through the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) to offset the costs of the annual symposium.
2. Coordination with local schools, colleges, or other educational institutions to promote and encourage awareness in Preservation.
3. Create a “15-minute guest speaker” series for quarterly presentations at HSPB meetings.
4. Establish an on-line hosting platform for the City’s database of historic resources like that which the City of Pasadena maintains. (www.pasadena.cfwebtools.com)

BUDGET AND STAFFING CONSIDERATIONS.

Of the total \$____ budget for historic preservation-related activities for FY 20/21, \$____ was spent. The City Council approved a budget for historic preservation activities for FY 21/22 of \$____.

¹ 8.05.010 Purpose and authority of the Historic Preservation Ordinance:

This chapter is adopted pursuant to the authority of [Government Code](#) Section 37361 for the purpose of preserving areas and specific buildings of the city which reflect elements of its cultural, social, economic, political, architectural and archaeological history. This chapter is intended to stabilize and improve buildings, structures or areas which are considered to be of historical, architectural, archaeological or ecological value, to foster civic beauty, to strengthen the local economy and to promote the use of historic resources for the education and welfare of the citizens. (Ord. 1970 § 2, 2019)