



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
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April 22, 2009

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Venice Heritage Museum

Dear Bill:

On behalf of the Venice Neighborhood Council ("VNC"), I'm pleased to add our support to the Venice Heritage Foundation ("the Foundation" or "the VHF"). Their mission statement - "Envisioning a Venice History Museum" - focuses on an important goal for our community. Abbot Kinney's "Venice of America" has had a full and fascinating life and that continuing story deserves to be shared. While the need for a museum heritage center has often been discussed over the years, the VHF was created solely with this purpose in mind. The founding members - all lovers of things Venice - include collectors, successful community volunteers, and, significantly, noted author and historian Elayne Alexander.

The VHF plan is particularly exciting. It calls for the restoration of an original Pacific Electric Red Trolley Car to serve as the initial museum space located in Venice of America's Centennial Park, immediately East of our Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Library. The Seal Beach Museum has demonstrated the success of this idea with its own "Red Car" history museum and public library residing similarly (and very appropriately) on old Pacific Electric right-of-way property.

On March 17, 2009, in support of this concept, the VNC Board of Officers unanimously passed the following Motion that was submitted by our Land Use and Planning Committee:

"Recommendation for locating Red Car east of Venice Public Library

Regarding proposals to occupy city owned land located at 520 Venice Way, Challis Macpherson moves that VNC Board of Officers accept LUPC's recommendation to recommend to Councilman Rosendahl that the Venice Heritage Museum (Red Car) be situated on Centennial Park, located immediately East of the Venice Public Library, as soon as possible and that the restoration (of the Red Car) take place there on that site."



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Accordingly, on behalf of the VNC and the VHF, I recommend the City Council's support of the Venice Heritage Museum project as soon as possible. I further recommend that the Museum be situated on Venice of America's Centennial Park as soon as possible and that the restoration (of the Red Car) take place there on that site.

The Foundation has already located a 100+ year old Red Car (PE 511) ready for a home and restoration volunteers are standing by. The restored Red Car will evoke a charming period of our history and add another treasured sight along our gateway to Venice. The VHF plan tastefully suggests an additional adjunct building replicating the old pagoda-style PE substation that used to stand nearby along Venice Boulevard called "The Tokio Station".

Once it is up and running, the museum space will be available to all local collections, public and private, and serve an important community function for residents, visitors, scholars, and students.

We can't think of a better celebration of our past and legacy for our community's future, and are proud to have the logo of the Venice Neighborhood Council displayed on the Venice Heritage Museum's promotional materials.

Sincerely,

Mike Newhouse
President
Venice Neighborhood Council

Cc: secretary@veniceNC.org