

To: GGPNC Board of Directors

Sept. 12, 2008

From: Nyla Arslanian, Chair
Neighborhood Improvement Committee

At the Neighborhood Improvement Committee (which includes Cultural and Events projects) meeting held on September 3, 2008, after a presentation by the Autry National Center, the following key points and resultant action were brought forth:

1. According to testimony at the hearing before the Zoning Administrator of the Planning Department on August 18, the former President of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Museum stated that the Autry was the only entity to come forth with a proposal after an exhaustive national search by that institution to obtain support for the property and its incomparable 500,000 piece collection.
2. Without the intervention by the Autry Museum the collection of artifacts at the Southwest was in serious jeopardy and upon their removal had to be frozen in order to kill insects that were actively at work on its destruction.
3. Following its acquisition and the merging of the two entities, the Autry initiated an expansion plan that would allow for the preservation, storage, exhibition and study of the Southwest Museum's collection. This plan includes an investment in the preservation of the Southwest Museum and continuing programming and exhibits at that site. As part of the process of restoring the Southwest Museum structure, the Autry National Center put forth the Southwest Museum for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.
4. Los Angeles' foremost preservation architect, Brenda Levin of Levin & Associates, known for not only preserving and restoring such historic structures as Los Angeles City Hall, The Wiltern, Chapman Market, and the Griffith Park Observatory, but for designing structures compatible with their surrounding environment, is the project's architect. The design for the "new" museum met with an enthusiastic response.
5. Further, in response to questions regarding the agreement with the city and its relationship to Griffith Park, it was noted the land which the Autry National Center is constructed is not part of the original Griffith J. Griffith gift to the city of Los Angeles but adjacent city-owned land formerly the site of an airfield and the city maintenance yard which was leased to the Autry at \$1 per year, a common city practice throughout the U.S. to encourage non-profit development of cultural facilities.
6. Since its opening, the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, now the Autry National Center, has emerged as one of the foremost cultural institutions in Los Angeles, California and the United States educating thousands of children of the region, as well as residents and visitors, on the American West, its expansion, its native people and those who settled it. Its emphasis on "convergence" or the combined role of many different people and cultures on Westward expansion was noted and acknowledged as a significant and unique contribution to the culture of the West.

Whereupon, the Neighborhood Improvement Committee (jointly with Cultural and Events) moved to approve the expansion of the Autry National Museum and presents this motion to the Board of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood for its approval.