#### Dear Residents

am pleased to present this edition of City Highlights. In this issue, we focus on the City's 25th Anniversary Capital Improvement Project. West Hollywood's 25th Anniversary of Cityhood is just over a year away and in celebration of this landmark, we have embarked upon a major initiative to develop world-class public facilities and expand our parks and open space.

I hope you will take the time to read about one of our exemplary employees, Gary Martinez, the City's Maintenance Supervisor. Gary is an integral part of the staff that keeps the City running smoothly. He is an amazing asset to our team.

Our first CTE Academy workshop was a great success and a lot of fun for both "students" and City staff. The Spring 2008 session of the CTE Academy will begin on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. If you are interested in participating in this increasingly popular program, please make sure to turn in your application by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 18, 2008.

In February, we will host the General Plan Fair, the first in a series of community meetings focusing on the update of the General Plan. The General Plan Fair will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at West Hollywood Park. This will be a wonderful opportunity for residents, business owners and other key stakeholders to share their vision for the future of West Hollywood.

As we begin 2008, best wishes to you and your family in the coming year. This is truly an exciting time to live and work in West Hollywood! I look forward to seeing you this year.

Sincerely, Paul Arevalo City Manager

#### WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL

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# WEST HOLLYWOOD

Information for the People of the City of West Hollywood

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## City Embarks on Major 25th Anniversary Capital Improvement Project

to Bring Premier Public Facilities to West Hollywood

n 2009, the City of West Hollywood will celebrate 25 years of cityhood. Since the City's incorporation in 1984, West Hollywood has established itself as one of the most progressive and innovative cities in the country. In celebration of this landmark, the City has embarked upon a new capital improvement project to develop premier public facilities, parks and open space: the "25th Anniversary Capital Improvement Project." As the City moves toward celebrating its remarkable first 25 years of Cityhood, world-class facilities that reward the community and assert permanence will help reflect the City's dynamic legacy. The project will include three major components:

- I. The implementation of Phase I of the West Hollywood Park Master Plan (which includes the development of a new West Hollywood Library);
- West Hollywood City Hall Community Service Center and Parking Project; and
- 3. Implementation of Phase I of the Plummer Park Master Plan.

  (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)







# Every Day Is A Good Day For Gary Martinez

ary Martinez believes in fate ... and faith. A hard-working, no nonsense man, he learned to have a great sense of humor growing up as one of six boys raised by a single mother in East Los Angeles. Up by 4 a.m. on weekdays, he makes it a point to give himself enough time as he's heading down the Hollywood Freeway on his way into West Hollywood to "smell the roses." It's a phrase he uses to explain his morning routine that includes

passing the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels church, visible from the highway, and giving thanks for the day by making the sign of the cross, a symbol of his Catholic religious conviction.

Gary is the City's Building Maintenance Supervisor and has been a member of the City of West Hollywood's staff for 15 years. He began his career in the maintenance field at Los Angeles Unified School District where he completed the requirements for a journeyman's license through its trade program. "Working for L.A. Unified was a good opportunity because they had diverse equipment from old to new and I had a chance to work on it all," explains Gary. Unfortunately, not long after he received his license, the school district began to make staffing cuts. As one of the newest members of the team, Gary

soon found himself without a job, a situation he now describes as "probably one of the best things that could have happened to me."

Disappointed with his lay-off, Gary started working various odd jobs and swore that he would never work for a government institution again. However, one day while going through the classified section of the newspaper, he saw an ad for a position with the City of West Hollywood. "When I showed up to fill out the application, City Hall was located in a shopping center so I didn't know what to expect," he chuckles, referring to the old City Hall building. "Then the written test was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the evening and I had never heard of a professional test set for that time. I thought it was strange and almost didn't go," he explains. However, upon his mother's urging he showed up. "I was just out of trade school so I knew the material very well and I finished before everyone else."

Six months later, he received a call from the City of West Hollywood offering him a job as a Maintenance Worker II. "I really feel as if it was meant for me to be at West Hollywood," explains Gary. "The day I received the call, I was going through the phonebook to find a new job. I was tired of doing odd jobs and my unemployment was running out the next day. It just seemed like perfect timing."

Gary hit the ground running. At the time the City was less than 10 years old and there were plenty of new projects to work on. As a Maintenance Worker II, he was responsible for the day-to-day work of maintaining and repairing City-owned buildings, facilities and landscape areas. Seven years later, he was promoted to his current post as the Building Maintenance Supervisor and is now responsible for supervising staff, contractors and vendors and overseeing maintenance activities for all City buildings, vehicles and facilities. Special events include the annual Halloween Camaval and the Christopher Street West Parade where the maintenance team does a consistently great job of coordinating and executing the clean-up of Santa Monica Boulevard. "This is a great

place to work, it gives people an opportunity to grow and be heard as an individual not just a number. I feel like I grew up with the City. When I started, the maintenance crew only had three guys. Now we're 18 strong and our relationship — it's like family."

In his free time, Gary enjoys going to Las Vegas with his wife and playing the slot machines. "It's something that we really enjoy doing together," he explains. "I like to think of myself as a lucky gambler," he jokes. "I don't win every time but I don't lose as much as other people!" They also like Fantasy Springs in Indio because of the food, poolside massages and golf, which is his passion. Recently, Gary's first grandchild was born, a girl named Isabel whom he clearly cherishes and adores. "I want her to play on the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour," he smiles and leans back in his chair with contentment, "that would be a dream come true."



# Famed Artist Dan Corson Illuminates Santa Monica Boulevard with "Empyrean Passage" Light Sculpture

new art exhibit in West Hollywood will light up the dark winter skies. Artist Dan Corson's "Empyrean Passage" light sculpture will be on display each evening at Santa Monica Boulevard and Doheny Drive from January 28 through May 15, 2008. The light sculpture is part of the City's "Art on the Outside" program.

Empyrean Passage was inspired by mathematical formulas that can be translated into three-dimensional forms and is reminiscent of a theoretical black hole. The light sculpture will measure 20 feet tall and consist of a series of metal hoops of various sizes. At night, the rings glow to create a floating form inspired by a black hole's absence of light. The entire sculpture gracefully moves with the wind causing a rippling effect of these rings, producing a gossamer effect of moving light. The sculpture utilizes extremely "green" low voltage electroluminescent light.

Dan Corson is known for creating dynamic environments with space, light and sound. His temporary and permanent light-based artworks employ a range of media from the primal (sun and fire) to the high-tech (neon, lasers, LEDs, fiber optics). His large-scale public artworks range from installations in rail stations and busy public intersections to quiet interpretive buildings and meditation chambers. He has won national and international art commissions and his work has been exhibited in Washington, California, Oregon, Maine, Nevada and Hawaii. Internationally, his work has been seen in the Czech Republic, England, Australia and Madagascar. This is his first installation in the greater Los Angeles area.

Art on the Outside is a project of the City's Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. The goal of the commission is to promote and nurture the arts and cultural life of West Hollywood. Art on the Outside aims to enhance the City's lively pedestrian-friendly culture through the production of dynamic temporary art installations on the Santa Monica Boulevard median and elsewhere in West Hollywood.

For more information on the Empyrean Passage exhibit or the Art on the Outside program go to www.weho.org or call (323) 848-6883.



# **Sunset Boulevard** to **Get a Facelift**

unset Boulevard, also known as "The Sunset Strip" and one of the most famous streets in the world. will be getting a facelift after more than 75 years of use. The Sunset Boulevard roadway hasn't been repaved since the County of Los Angeles replaced the original dirt road with concrete in the 1930s. Later this year, the City will start on the "Sunset Strip Beautification Project," which will primarily address roadway improvements and enhancements. Despite the length of time since the Sunset Strip has received any serious roadway improvement, the road is basically in good structural condition. Construction will start in Fall 2008.

The Sunset Strip Beautification Project will include the following improvements:

- · Pavement resurfacing;
- Replacing damaged sidewalks;
- · Improving roadway and crosswalk markings;
- · Upgrading traffic signal equipment; and
- · Planting street trees.

The City plans to construct the project in phases to reduce the impact to residents and businesses in the area. The City will gather input from the public on the construction mitigation plans on the project once the design is complete. A series of community meetings will be scheduled in the coming months to obtain public input on the project.

The City recently hired Harris & Associates to draw up the construction plans for the project. The Harris & Associates team has done a number of signature street projects for many cities in the Los Angeles County and Orange County areas.

For more information, contact Donn Uyeno, Project Manager, in the City's Engineering Division at (323) 848-6457 or email at duyeno@weho.org

## Save the Date!

# Women's History Month March 2008

In March, the City of West Hollywood will celebrate Women's History Month with a series of events focusing on leadership. Scheduled events include:



- Women's History Month Kick-Off
  Commemorating the 15th Anniversary
  of the Women's Advisory Board and special
  Women's History Month Banner unveiling
  ceremony on Monday, March 3, 2008 at the
  regularly scheduled West Hollywood City
  Council meeting;
- The West Hollywood Women's Leadership Alliance Summit, which will take place on Saturday, March 15, 2008 and feature the first ever official gathering of West Hollywood's female appointed officials;
- The 13th Annual Women in Leadership Awards on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, a recognition ceremony acknowledging the achievements and contributions of local women;
- The Second Annual Kick-Off of the West Hollywood Women's Leadership Conference on Friday, March 21, 2008 at the Pacific Design Center with a film screening and panel discussion; and
- The West Hollywood Women's Leadership Conference on Saturday, March 22, 2008 at the West Hollywood Hyatt Hotel will feature workshops, panel discussions, a keynote speaker and luncheon. The goal of the conference is to inspire and encourage women who live and work in West Hollywood to embrace the wide variety of leadership opportunities available in both their professional and personal lives. For more information and updates regarding Women's History Month, please contact Larissa Fooks at (323) 848-6460 or visit www.weho.org/wlc2008

## Building Community Through Engagement

The Basics: Local Government 101

# Attend the City of West Hollywood's Building Community Through Engagement Academy Beginning Tuesday, March 18, 2008 Applications Due by Engagement Academy February 18, 2008

Applications Due by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 18, 2008

he Building Community Through
Engagement (CTE Academy)
— pronounced "City Academy"
— is a nine-week workshop that will provide
members of the community with a handson overview of the management of the City
of West Hollywood. The CTE Academy
will include detailed information about how
the City functions, tours of City facilities and
intimate discussions with City staff. Participants
will also get a chance to sit down with City
Council members for discussions on issues,
projects, politics and plans for shaping the
future of the West Hollywood community.

# Application deadline for the Spring 2008 session of the CTE Academy is 5 p.m. on Monday, February 18, 2008.

The Spring 2008 session of the CTE Academy will be held from Tuesday, March 18, 2008 through Tuesday, May 13, 2008. Each session runs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will incorporate dynamic and varied activities to illustrate how the City functions. Topics covered at the CTE Academy include the roles and responsibilities of the City Council, Boards & Commissions; Transportation & Public Works; the Sheriff's & Fire Departments; Housing; Community Development; Finance; Recreation; Social Services; and more. Participants will learn how decisions are made, how City funds are allocated, and how City departments operate with each other. Participants will become thoroughly versed in City operations, have an opportunity to give feedback directly to City service providers and have a voice in shaping the future direction of the City.

CTE Academy applications can be picked up on the 3rd floor of West Hollywood City Hall or downloaded at www.weho.org/cte

Please return applications for the CTE Academy Spring 2008 to the 3rd Floor of City Hall or email cte@weho.org For more information, please contact Mikel Gerle, CTE Academy Coordinator, at (323) 848-6460 or email cte@weho.org

#### Session I \*

# Program Orientation and Local Government 101

City Council, Boards & Commissions, City Manager, City Clerk, and the City Attorney

#### Tuesday, March 18, 2008

This session will help students develop a better understanding of the functions of the City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk and Boards & Commissions. During the class, students will have the opportunity to act as a Councilmember for an evening and create public policy.

#### Session 2

# Recreation and Special Events

Parks, Recreation and Special Events
Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Students will tour the City's parks and recreational facilities, arts and cultural affairs venues and the West Hollywood Farmers' Market. Learn about camp programs and family-oriented events and the spectacular special events held in West Hollywood. There will be a tour of the City's aquatics facility at West Hollywood Park and students will learn about the adult, youth and Special Olympic swim teams.

#### Session 3

#### **City Infrastructure**

Transportation, Public Works, Landscape and Building Maintenance

#### Tuesday, April I, 2008

This session will focus on the City's vital infrastructure functions including parking enforcement, transit systems, solid waste, recycling programs and building maintenance. Students will also learn about what the City is doing to become a "Green City."

#### **Session 4**

#### **Public Safety**

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department and the West Hollywood Public Safety Division

#### Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Students will learn about the responsibilities of the West Hollywood Public Safety Division and how they work in partnership with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Take a tour of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station and find out how these women and men keep the City safe.

#### Session 5

#### **Organizational Foundations**

Human Resources, Finance, Technology Services, and Legal Services

#### Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Students will meet the people who provide the institutional foundation for West Hollywood City Hall and learn how City staff in the Human Resources Division, Finance & Technology Department and Legal Services provide support on a surprisingly wide range of services.

#### Session 6

# Planning Today & Building Tomorrow

Community Development Department and Prosecution Services

#### Tuesday, April 22, 2008

This session will provide students with an overview of how the Planning, Building & Safety and the Commercial Code Compliance Divisions work together to make West Hollywood a dynamic and livable city. Prosecution Services and the City Prosecutor will discuss municipal criminal prosecutions in West Hollywood.

#### Session 7

# Affordable Housing and Social Services

Rent Stabilization & Housing, Social Services **Tuesday, April 29, 2008** 

Students will have an opportunity to meet with City staff that provide information and counseling services to both tenants and owners

of residential rental properties, followed by a bus tour to visit three of the City's completed affordable housing projects. Students will also learn about social services available to residents.

#### Session 8

#### **Commerce and Redevelopment**

Economic Development and Redevelopment **Tuesday, May 6, 2008** 

Students will learn how the City partners with the business community to keep its economic engine running. There will be a case study review so that students can learn about how decisions are made to keep West Hollywood's economy strong.

#### Session 9

# Councilmember Conversations, Communication & Cable TV

Conversations with your Council Members, Public Information Office, Cable Access Television and the Film Office

#### Tuesday, May 13, 2008

At this special session, students will join members of the West Hollywood City Council for a discussion about the City Council's role in developing public policy. There will also be an opportunity to meet staff from the Public Information Office and learn the tools and tactics used so that the City's messages reach the public.

#### **Graduation from CTE Academy**

# West Hollywood City Council Meeting

Recognition for a Job Well Done Monday, May 19, 2008

Graduation Day! Each student will be presented with a certificate for successful completion of the Spring 2008 CTE Academy during a West Hollywood City Council meeting. Congratulations!

\* Sessions are subject to change.





### **City Embarks** on Major 25th Anniversary **Capital Improvement Project to Bring Premier Public Facilities to West** Hollywood

#### Phase I of the West Hollywood Park Master Plan

Phase I of the West Hollywood Park Master Plan will replace the current library with a new 42,000 square foot state-of-the-art library with public meeting rooms, and a 91-space parking garage. In addition to the library, Phase I of the West Hollywood Park Master Plan will include a 2.5 acre increase in parkland and green space for West Hollywood Park, new tennis courts and a 333-space municipal parking garage.

The new West Hollywood Library will create the centerpiece of the West Hollywood community. It is designed to showcase the City's rich intellectual, literary and cultural diversity and provide a landmark facility for the community's passionate commitment to lifelong learning. The Library will include materials that spotlight West Hollywood's vibrant diversity and will feature a LGBT Collection; International Languages Collection; Decorative Arts and Design area; a vast collection of large-print materials for Seniors and people who are visually impaired and a West Hollywood Room that will feature archival materials showcasing the City's history.

The new West Hollywood Library is designed to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating and be a certified "Green Building." Green options under consideration for the Library include a photovoltaic system (a solar power technology that uses solar cells to convert energy from the sun into electricity); low-emitting materials for paints, coatings and carpeting; optimizedenergy performance systems (lighting, heating and ventilation) and the use of Green housekeeping products.

#### West Hollywood Community Service Center and Parking Project

The West Hollywood Community Service Center and Parking Project will include the construction of a new three-story building adjoining the current City Hall building will be available for use by adjacent residents, visitors and business patrons.



#### Phase I of the Plummer Park Master Plan

Phase I of the Plummer Park Master Plan will include renovation and expansion of Fiesta Hall into a quality multi-purpose performance venue for the community with the capacity to accommodate between 150 and 200 people in theater-style seating as well as improvement and expansion of parkland and green space and additional parking for park patrons and the public. The new Fiesta Hall performance venue will include:

- Capacity to accommodate between 150 and 200 people in theater-style seating, tables, chairs and/or flat floor use:
- Opportunity to create a 99-seat "black box" for cultural performances;
- New lighting and sound systems;
- Improved acoustics;
- New furnishings;
- Improvements to Fiesta Hall's main entry, outside patio area, main auditorium, stage, dressing rooms, restrooms, lobby and kitchen areas;
- New heating and ventilation system;
- New exterior landscaping;
- Construction of an "autocourt" for vehicle drop-off at the Vista entrance to Fiesta Hall; and
- Fiesta Hall will be upgraded to current building code requirements including all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the City's Green Building Requirements for Public Buildings.

Other improvements to Plummer Park will include enhancing the existing green space in the center of Plummer Park; creation of a central park promenade that will run east-west from Vista Street to Fuller Avenue; establishing a quiet formal garden in the area fronting Fuller Street; creation of additional green space throughout the park; an interactive water feature; construction of a new Tiny Tot Program building to replace an outdated modular building; new play equipment; and relocation of the existing basketball court.

A subterranean parking structure will be constructed that will serve the public, park users and businesses. It will also provide for the creation of 33,000 square feet of new additional parkland and open space at Plummer Park.

#### **Budget**

The budget for the 25th Anniversary Capital Improvement Project is \$125 million. The project will primarily be financed through the issuance of bonds; other funding sources including the City's General Fund and Parking Fund; private donor fundraising and public and private grants. The debt service on the bonds will be paid from the City's Parking Fund revenue; Redevelopment Agency tax increment revenue; and new enhanced economic development revenues. A fundraising campaign has been initiated to raise private donations to help build the new West Hollywood Library component of the project.

For regular updates on the 25th Anniversary Capital Improvement Project, go to the City's website: www.weho.org





The new
West Hollywood
Library is
designed to
achieve a
Leadership in
Energy and
Environmental
Design (LEED)
rating and be a
certified "Green
Building."



Water

outhern California's average annual rain fall is only about 15 inches per year, which means that the region is constantly threatened with a shortage of usable water, even during the winter months. However, if every person saved just 20 gallons of water a day, Southern California would be protected against severe water shortages. Saving water is easier than you may think. A few simple changes in your routine can make a big difference in your daily water usage. Historic dry conditions, coupled with legal and regulatory constraints on water deliveries to Southern California, make it essential for residents and businesses to consider water efficiency a priority.



Here are a few indoor water saving tips you can implement:

- Run the dishwasher only when full (saving 2.5 gallons per load)
- Turn off water while rinsing dishes (saving 2.5 gallons per minute)
- Turn off water while brushing teeth (saving 2 gallons per minute)
- (saving 2.5 gallons per minute)
- Opon't use the toilet as a wastebasket (saving 2 gallons per flush)
- Wash only full loads of clothes (saving 15-20 gallons per day per load)
- Fix leaky toilets (saving 30-50 gallons per day per toilet)
- Fix leaky faucets (saving 15-20 gallons per day per load)

For more information regarding water conservation, please contact Jan Harmon in the City's Environmental Services Division at (323) 848-6499.

#### New Notification Requirements Adopted for Single Family Homeowners, Condominium Owners and Owners of any Residential Property Built After July 1, 1979

wners of single family homes, condominiums and any residential property built after July 1, 1979 are now required to notify new tenants in writing at the time they rent or lease the property that their tenancy is not subject to the rent increase limits of the City of West Hollywood's Rent Stabilization Ordinance.

The written notification must include the following language: "This rental unit is exempt from the rent limitations imposed by the City of West Hollywood Rent Stabilization Ordinance. This means that, upon the expiration of any lease, the property owner may increase the unit's rent by an amount greater than the Rent Stabilization Ordinance would otherwise allow."

This statement must be in at least 12-point font and may be provided either as a separate document or within the body of the lease. If provided as a separate document, the document must be signed by the tenant. If provided in the body of the lease, the specific clause must be initialed.

A property owner's failure to comply with this requirement is subject to the administrative penalty provisions set forth in the City of West Hollywood's Municipal Code.

For more information, or for a document that may be used to meet this disclosure requirement, please contact the City's Rent Stabilization and Housing Department at (323) 848-6450.



## **Judith Wright**

The City's Budget and Compensation Manager Retires After More than 20 Years of Service

n February 2008, the City willl sadly say goodbye to Judith Wright, Budget and Compensation Manager in the Department of Finance and Information Technology. Judith will retire after 22 years of service at the City of West Hollywood and after winning numerous state and national awards for the City's budget. She plans to spend more time with her partner, Susan, and to travel extensively. "Working for West Hollywood has been a privilege and a pleasure. I am so grateful to the City for allowing me to grow professionally, do meaningful work, become financially secure and have a wonderful community of co-workers."

Best wishes to Judith as she embarks on this new phase of her life.

## Residents Warned **Not** To Eat Food From Unlicensed Peddlers

he West Hollywood Municipal Code bans unlicensed food peddlers from operating within the City. Recently, there has been a proliferation of unlicensed peddlers selling hotdogs and other quickly prepared foods from pushcarts along Santa Monica Boulevard specifically catering to nightclub customers. When purchasing food from a mobile food peddler, you should always check to ensure that they have a valid business license from the City of West Hollywood.

Many of the pushcarts have no regulation of temperature or refrigeration for cooked or uncooked food, and no water for sanitation. As a result, persons who eat from unlicensed food peddlers are risking their health, including the possibility of contracting Hepatitis A, Salmonella, E.coli and/or Intestinal Parasites. To learn more about unlicensed food peddlers or to report a possible unlicensed food peddler, please call the City's Code Compliance Division at (323) 848-6516.



# City of West Hollywood to Host "General Plan Fair" on Saturday, February 23, 2008

he City is embarking on the first comprehensive update of the community's General Plan. The General Plan is a policy document that defines how the City manages its physical, economic and human resources. California state law mandates that cities draft, adopt and continuously update their General Plan. West Hollywood's original General Plan was first adopted in 1988. The General Plan update will provide an opportunity to address changes that have occurred in West Hollywood and the region in the past few years. This update is an opportunity for participants to be involved in defining the West Hollywood of the future.

The City of West Hollywood will host a General Plan Fair, the first community-wide meeting for the General Plan Update, on Saturday, February 23, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to I p.m. at the West Hollywood Park Auditorium, 647 N. San Vicente Boulevard in West Hollywood. The General Plan Fair will give participants the opportunity to share their ideas about the vision of West Hollywood's future, to learn about what things impact community change over time, and specific facts about West Hollywood. Attendees will also have an opportunity to talk with City staff and representatives from Hogle-Ireland Inc., the General Plan consultants hired by the City of West Hollywood.

For more information about the General Plan Fair, please call Francie Stefan at (323) 848-6357.

#### Did You Know?

The City of West Hollywood is in the process of updating its General Plan.

- Many people involved in the first General Plan are still active in the community today.
- The General Plan is a comprehensive document that covers 18 topics, organized into elements (i.e. chapters). It has seven elements required by the State: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Air Quality and Safety. West Hollywood's General Plan also has 11 additional elements: Public Open Space and Urban Design, Economic Development, Historic Preservation, Utilities, Education and Cultural, Parks and Recreation, Human Services, Energy and Water Conservation and Noise.
- An estimated 78 percent of West Hollywood residents are renters.
- In 2006, I.2 million people visited West Hollywood and generated \$625 million in revenue.
- Approximately 75 properties in the City are designated cultural resources at the local, state or national level.

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