

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the City commissioning the Historical Context Study?

The City has commissioned the Historical Context Study to document discriminatory policies and racial segregation in the area that is now the City of West Hollywood. The City wants to recognize and acknowledge its history and continue to elevate issues of racial injustice and inequity. Through the Historical Context Study, the City seeks to gain a clear understanding of the injustices of the past to right those wrongs and work to address discrimination moving forward.

What is the Historical Context Study?

The Historical Context Study will include an in-depth analysis of the historical context of West Hollywood and identify the history of Indigenous peoples and demographic shifts of inhabitants. It will also research racially and culturally discriminatory policies that existed in the area from the 19th century until present day.

How is the Historical Context Study different than a historic context statement?

A historic context statement documents the history of a place through the lens of the built environment and traces development patterns and trends. It also lays out a framework for the evaluation of properties for potential designation at the national, state, and/or local level. The goal of the Historical Context Study is not the identification and documentation of any potential cultural resources or historic districts. Rather, it will broadly examine the history of discrimination and racism in West Hollywood, as well as a history of the City's demographics.

Who is conducting the Historical Context Study?

The historical context study is being led by the City in conjunction with a team of professional historians from Architectural Resources Group (ARG).

What will the Historical Context Study be used for?

The document will be used as a starting point for addressing past and present social inequities, acknowledging past wrongs, and preventing discrimination in the future. By understanding the events of the past, the City will be more informed moving forward.

What types of information will be collected?

The team is conducting extensive primary and secondary source research on discriminatory practices and their outcomes locally as well as those at the state and federal level that affected local policy. To augment this research, we are looking for accounts of personal experiences related to discrimination in West Hollywood. Perhaps you have witnessed or experienced instances of discrimination firsthand, or recall experiences of family members in the past. Extensive research exists on

discriminatory policies that would have affected those living or working in West Hollywood (such as the LGBTQ+ community). We are looking for evidence of discrimination and racism playing out in West Hollywood specifically.

How will the information I share be used?

The information you share will be used to ensure that as many perspectives and experiences are included in the document as possible. The information shared may be included in the document as examples of discrimination or may be used as starting points for further research and follow up. **No personal identifying information will be included in the study.**

How long will it take to complete the Study?

The project has an estimated completion date of January 2023. Please share your thoughts and experiences with us by November 1, 2022.

How should I submit information?

You can submit information via the Google Form on the City's website. You can also email Jasmine Duckworth, Community Programs Coordinator, at jduckworth@weho.org.