

MOTION

Venice was once one of the most racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse communities on the Westside. That diversity was key to the identity of Venice. It built the neighborhoods, shaped Venice's growth and character, and was the foundation of Venice's international recognition and cultural acclaim.

With gentrification, displacement and income inequality, much of that diversity has vanished, and so has much of our history. While the common story of the founding of Venice centers around Abbot Kinney, the stories and contributions of the people who lived and worked in the community are being lost. Efforts are being made to preserve and celebrate this history, and the City of Los Angeles should support it.

History is often celebrated through the designation of physical structures and landmarks for their architectural or historical significance, however due to detrimental policies that drove socioeconomic disparities and displacement, this rich history of Venice is under threat of erasure. As such, "interpretive history" is a powerful placemaking tool that communities can use to preserve the stories and contributions of their ancestors and provide a deeper understanding of the history of a space and its significance. Interpretive history is also a tool to capture and preserve narratives that may only exist through anecdotal evidence such as stories and collective memory. The Oakwood Preservation Coalition (OPC) seeks to use interpretative history to remember and celebrate the Black, Latino, and Indigenous communities that called the 1-square mile neighborhood of Oakwood in Venice home.

The OPC's proposed Venice "Walk of Fame" medallion sidewalk project will pay tribute to the local community by honoring the people who made outstanding contributions to its development in the areas such as community service, education, business development, or cultural significance. The Walk of Fame will be a source of community pride as honorees will represent the diverse demographics of Venice and uplift the unsung stories of local heroes. As envisioned by OPC, the Walk of Fame is meant to be an ongoing and living project as the commemorated individuals will be recognized along the perimeter of Oakwood Recreation Center. The project will be managed and maintained by OPC, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of community culture and history.

The Walk of Fame will provide an opportunity for local Venetians and visitors alike to share in the collective history of Venice and intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually connect with the community on a deeper level. The project will promote unity through diversity and inclusiveness by celebrating the contributions of locals and uplifting stories for the community to experience together.

I THEREFORE MOVE that \$40,000 of the Council District 11 portion of the Street Furniture Revenue Fund No. 43D, Department 50 be transferred to the Board of Public Works Fund No. 100, Dept. 74, Account No. 003040 (Contractual Services) for Phase 1 of the Oakwood "Walk of Fame" medallion sidewalk project and corridor improvements along 7th Ave between Broadway Street and California Avenue.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Public Works, Office of Community Beautification, be authorized to prepare the necessary documents with and/or payments in the above amount for the above purpose, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form.

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I FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Public Works, Executive Officer, or designee, be authorized to make any technical or accounting corrections as necessary to the above instructions in order to effectuate the intent of the motion.

Presented by: 
MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

Seconded by: 

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