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EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE 18

11:30 a.m.

**General Membership
Meeting**

**11th ANNUAL DOWNTOWN
HOUSING FORUM: LOOKING**



City Planning Commission Responds to CCA's Calls for Further Analysis of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance

Due to strong advocacy from CCA and a coalition of other property owners, business organizations, and community members, the City Planning Commission (CPC) postponed action on the Cultural Heritage draft ordinance until its July 9th meeting in order to continue reviewing these complex issues closely. The CPC specifically instructed Planning Department staff to further

STAFF BRIEFS

- CCA President & CEO Carol Schatz testified before the LAUSD Board in support of a resolution to expedite the process for terminating teachers accused of criminal behavior, thereby saving taxpayer dollars. The resolution passed on Tuesday with a narrow margin, and a task force will study and make recommendations to state lawmakers.

- The City Council approved a new moratorium (ICO) on offsite signs, including digital conversions and supergraphics. This ICO would go into effect on **June 25, 2009, after the current ICO expires. Staff Contact: Veronica Perez Becker, VP of**

**HOUSING FORUM: LOOKING
BEYOND THE CRISIS &
RESIDENTIAL SHOWCASE**

JULY 15

Save the Date

**ELECTED OFFICIALS
RECEPTION**

J Restaurant & Lounge

**UPCOMING
COMMITTEES**

**Open to Executive Level
Members Only**

JULY 9

11:45 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Special Guest: Councilmember
Jose Huizar**

**Open to Executive and
Business
Advocacy Members Only**

JUNE 17

8:00 a.m.

**Housing, Land Use &
Development Committee**

JUNE 25

12:00 p.m.

**Arts, Retail & Hospitality
Committee**

analyze the following issues: 1) designation of interiors; 2) possible creation of an inventory of character-defining features; 3) rebalancing of the Certificate of Hardship; 4) addition of the new designation criteria; and 5) the development of incentives for property owners, among many other issues.

CCA has advocated for more analysis, expressing our concern that staff's recommendations were being pushed through on an unnecessarily expedited time frame. The ordinance will have far-reaching implications on the landscape and economic health of the City; however, more work must be done to analyze potential impacts thoroughly. The CPC has requested another revision of the draft ordinance and report by July 9, and CCA will continue to push for sensible, business-friendly changes. For more information, please contact CCA's Senior Director of Legislative & Legal Affairs, Anh Nguyen.

Legislative & Legal Affairs.

• **CCA testified before the Associate Zoning Administrator in support of Conditional Use Permits for two new entertainment venues in Downtown. CCA worked with Councilmember Jan Perry's office and LAPD to ensure that the conditions of use and safety plan were suitable to the surrounding residential and commercial areas while not overburdening the operators. Staff Contact: Tracey Chavira.**

• **CCA testified in support of the Broadway Design Guide at the Planning Department's public hearing. The Guide will establish design and development standards for the rehabilitation of historic and existing buildings, as well as the construction of new structures. A recommendation will be prepared by the Hearing Officer for consideration by the City Planning Commission and City Council for action at a later date. Staff Contact: Tracey Chavira.**

• **CCA supported the Bunker Hill Arts Retention Program, a public-private partnership led by the CRA/LA to assist art organizations like MOCA and Shakespeare Festival L.A. in keeping their doors open. The City's Housing, Community & Economic Development Committee approved the program and the matter will be heard by the full City Council in the coming weeks. Staff Contact: Tracey Chavira.**

• **CCA participated in the Downtown Hospitality Forum, where Councilmember Jan Perry thanked restaurant and bar operators for being good neighbors and contributing to the economic and social vitality of Downtown, and addressed**




concerns related to illegal food vending. Staff Contact: Tracey Chavira.

IN THE NEWS

"The view is, if it's not broke, don't fix it," said Carol Schatz, president of the Central City Association, which was part of a working group that gave input on the proposal. "Under the existing ordinance, only about 3% of historic buildings have been demolished, so a number of property owners are saying, 'Why are we doing this?'" Particularly, she added, during a down market. June 5, *Los Angeles Downtown News*, "A Bitter Building Battle" by Anna Scott on the Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

The most recent point of contention emerged this week, when Central City Association leaders said the organization is working on its own alternative update to the Cultural Heritage Ordinance. "An alternative ordinance is being crafted," said CCA President Carol Schatz. "It still has not been vetted with our members or property owners, so it's not ready for show time yet." "We believe there's



still a possibility of coming to some agreement with the city on some of the more troublesome provisions," she added.

June 9, *Los Angeles*

Downtown News,

"Showdown Over Historic Buildings Goes to Vote" by Anna Scott on the Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

A delegate from the Central City Assn., which represents downtown property owners, participated in the 16-month public process of crafting the amendments, but the organization now says stakeholders should take more time to consider the implications. "We hope the commission will give us more time to negotiate," said Carol E. Schatz, the group's president and chief executive. June 9, *Los Angeles Times*, "Major revisions proposed for Los Angeles' preservation ordinance" by Martha Groves on the Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

"We had offices, we had some cultural attractions," said Carol Schatz, president and chief executive of the Central City Assn., a business advocacy group that pushed for the change. "But the one thing that we



knew we needed to make downtown survive and thrive was residents." June 10, *Los Angeles Times*, "Ordinance brings new life into downtown L.A.'s Main Street" by Cara Mia DiMassa on the changes brought about by the Adaptive Reuse Ordinance.

"Among them were several Downtown property owners and members of business group the Central City Association, which had a delegate help craft the proposal, but argued that the new ordinance would be too restrictive." June 12, *Los Angeles Downtown News*, "Deep Divide Over Building Proposals" by Anna Scott on the Cultural Heritage Ordinance and the ongoing work on the proposal by Anh Nguyen, CCA Senior Director of Legislative & Legal Affairs.

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