

Chicano Arts Collective Update

Since last year, the Highland Park Heritage Trust has made considerable progress in the nomination of two properties associated with the Chicano Arts Collective of the 1970s. Located on North Figueroa Street, the Mechicano Art Center and Centro de Arte Publico provided venues for artists and community members in Highland Park during a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement. The nominations were submitted to the City for consideration

as Historic-Cultural Monuments on January 31, 2020 and are currently awaiting review by the Cultural Heritage Commission. In anticipation of the hearing, the Trust is considering various events and public forums where community members and artists can meet to learn, share, and discuss this noteworthy history. Feel free to reach out with any ideas or inspiration!



5607 Figueroa Street, former site of the Centro de Arte Publico

President's Message

by JAMIE TIJERINA

Dear Members,

We're starting the new year and the new decade off on the right track! On February 8, the board of director met for our annual retreat to discuss the year ahead. We have scheduled dates for our quarterly Sycamore Grove Walking tours, the Preservation Awards, as well as a return of our summer Heritage Happy Hour! We additionally discussed the progress of our nomination of the Chicano Art Collectives. Make sure to renew your membership for the year by visiting our website at hpht.org! We look forward to another great year with all of you.

Save The Date HPHT Community Preservation Awards

On **May 3, 2020**, The Highland Park Heritage Trust will present our Bi-Annual Community Preservation Awards for 2020. The location and other information about the awards will be announced soon – come join HPHT as we recognize and celebrate the cultural heritage of the Arroyo communities and the people dedicated to their preservation!



Save the Date!

Saturday | April 4, 2020
6:30 to 10 pm

15th Annual Noisemaker Award Dinner

honoring
Jain and Eliot Sekuler

Highland Park Ebell Club | 131 S. Ave 57 | Los Angeles 90042

Noisemaker Tickets: \$50 per person
Available online: <http://www.lummisday.org>
and Galco's Old World Grocery
5702 York Blvd. Los Angeles 90042

Summer Happy Hour

It's not too early to be making fun summer plans, and HPHT invites you to join us for our **Summer Happy Hour, August 20, 2020 beginning at 6:00pm**. We'll be able to announce the location of the event shortly – HPHT leadership will be on hand to welcome you with food and drinks and great conversations – come be a part of the fun!

Highland Park Heritage Trust

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Terry Williams 1946–2020

by JJ JACKMAN

“Hey Eric, I see jj’s car has been home for a few days, is he OK?”

He watched over our neighborhood. Countless times conversations with Terry begin with a question like this, or a report of the goings-on in our little cul-de-sac – who’s driving too fast, who got a new dog, what deliveries were made to Judson Studios...he kept an eye on things and faithfully reported them.

Terry Williams and the Williams family were pillars in the Arroyo Seco community for many years. Terry was the owner and operator of the Arroyo Seco Stables, which were built in 1926 by his father, Chuck Williams. Originally encompassing what is now the Arroyo Seco Park, the Williams family gave that portion of land to Highland Park, a venue that is enjoyed daily by hundreds of Highland Park residents and visitors. Terry and the family made another significant contribution to the area many years ago, winning a successful court battle to prevent the development of rock quarries along the arroyo...

Important contributions no doubt, and the family’s influence is indelibly embedded in the community. That notoriety was not immediately apparent in Terry Williams the man, the neighbor, the friend. For the 10 years that my husband and I lived next door to Terry, we came to know him as a quiet and simple man. He loved being at the stables. He loved the color yellow – he had a bright yellow pickup truck and always, always wore a bright yellow T-shirt. He loved his cats. An image that I carry most

fondly is Terry in his work boots, scruffy jeans, suspenders and the ever-present yellow t-shirt, walking around our end of the street with his beloved cat Tigger on her leash – yes, you read that right. Tigger loved going for walks with Terry, and the unlikely pair made a humorous and heartwarming sight.

Terry knew every square foot of Highland Park. Through a long career spent in excavation and demolition,

there were very few places in this community where he hadn’t contributed, helping to dig out, resurface, tear down or rebuild. We regularly took Terry out to dinner on Friday evenings, and every trip we’d pass a school or a lot or some structure that he’d worked on in the past; he’d tell stories of what was there before and how the current structure came to be. We’d joked

several times on these outings that somebody should sit him down in front of a camera and get him talking – he possessed a rich and interesting oral history of the area and it should be recorded. Terry liked the idea, but like so many “someday we oughta” ideas, it didn’t come to fruition, and I regret that loss as a part of the great sadness of losing our dear friend and neighbor.

On the phone, Terry always signed off the same way, and his words were an invitation for future meetings and enjoyable times together. Knowing nothing of what happens beyond death, and on the chance that there may be more for us as human beings after departing this life, I sign off to with his same hopeful words. To Terry...’bye for now.



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An Ode to My Abode // Adobe

by KEIKO TAKIOTO MILLER

Have you dragged your old roots around
Looking for a right spot for it in a new place?

Every place I went, I had to sit a while and ponder
Where to plant it so it would grow

Even I didn't like where I was put
It demanded that it be planted somewhere!

By then it lost its tautness and flopped over my wrist
Without any further instruction

So I buried it into the ground the next day
Except one tiny strand of its pitiful roots

Which I swallowed while grieving in the closet
With plenty of water it might need, I felt

Alas, no longer do I drag my old roots along
'Cause everywhere I go I am homebound

On What Consists of the HPHT Logo

When the *Highland Park Heritage Trust* entrusted me, the newcomer in the neighborhood, to design its 35th year anniversary T-shirt (2017), I saw that this community is made up of a pile of many peoples of many different walks that had dragged their roots around with a dream to turn this place into that which they can call it home. The image attempts to bring together the essence of nature-inspired and ethnically influenced architectural designs and material objects. Architecturally intermarried, Spanish Missionary-style building and Southwest Pueblo Indian adobe gave rise to arched windows, pathways and clay roofing. The Art Deco Period as well as Frank Lloyd vision inspired stone pillars, layered wooden frames, and façade. The Native American clay vase "holds" the earthen origin essence of different heritages of which we are all part today, directly or indirectly. Seen from the arched window, which, together with the extended branch of an ever-present sycamore tree from the time immemorial into the future, embraces our community. One can see the San Gabriel Mountains in the distance and the iconic Southwest Museum in the foreground. Unseen, but implied are our Highland Park community dwellers who contribute themselves invisibly 24/7 harnessing its vital heart beat in sync with its surroundings, both natural and cultural.

At the recent 2020 planning retreat, the HPHT Board of Directors voted to adopt Keiko Miller's work as the official logo for the Trust.



It's a New Year

We encourage your participation. HPHT is the go-to organization in Northeast Los Angeles for those who are interested in the preservation of the history, culture and environment of the Arroyo Seco Communities.

Membership with HPHT just got easier. We've instituted *JoinIt* for online registration and renewal.

You may join or renew online at <https://www.joinit.org/o/hpht>

...or mail a check along with your name, address, phone number to

Highland Park Heritage Trust • Attn: Membership • PO Box 50894 • Los Angeles CA 90050-0894

Indicate renewal or new membership in the note section on your check.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

- Individual \$20
- Family \$30
- Student \$5
- Sponsor \$50
- Benefactor \$100
- Angel \$200
- Lifetime \$500

- Renewal New Member

My preference for contact: Phone Email

- My employer or my spouse's employer matches gifts to non-profits.
HPHT is a 501c3 Non-Profit Corporation, Tax ID #95-4034485

- Since HPHT is a 501.c3 Non-Profit Corporation, consider creating an endowment. Does your employer match gifts to non-profits?

*Beyond paying annual dues you can get involved at your level of interest, expertise
and desire to learn in the following ways:*

- | | | |
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UPCOMING EVENTS Info@hpht.org or by telephone at (323) 908-4127

HPHT Board Meetings: Mondays • 7:00 pm • Highland Park Ebell Club - March 9, April 13 & May 11

HPHT Walking Tours 2020: April 25, June 27, October 24 • Check web site for details • www.hpht.org

Save the Date: Sunday, May 3 • HPHT 2020 Community Preservation Awards – time and location to be announced

Saturday, April 4 • 6:30 pm • Lummis Day Community Foundation 15th Annual Noisemaker Award Dinner. Highland Park Ebell Club • tix available at: www.lummisday.org



PO Box 50894
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www.hpht.org

Address Correction Requested

What's Inside

Ode to My Abode

Terry Williams (1946–2020)

Please Renew Your Membership

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