

Proposal:



**A Request for the Removal of Donald
Trump's Name from the Hollywood
Walk of Fame**

Calls for Action

“I believe in America there’s no place for political violence. None. None. None. We have to denounce hate, not embolden it.”--President Biden, September 28, 2023.

“The threat to our government still exists today, and we must do everything we can at every level of government, to fight back and stop it, and we will.”--Mayor Karen Bass, January, 2023.

“We have for far too long in Los Angeles accepted a comfortable amnesia when it comes to reckoning with some of the most fraught aspects of our history.”--Eric Garcetti, Civic Memory Working Group Report “Past Due,” 2021.

“Here’s hoping Trump’s incoming barrage of indictments will be a motivating factor in scrubbing his name from forms of public honor.”--D.C. Police Officer, Daniel Hodges.

“My first acts as your next President will be to Close the Border, DRILL, BABY, DRILL, and Free the January 6 Hostages being wrongfully imprisoned!”--Donald Trump, March 11, 2024

Background

- The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce (HCoC) credits E.M. Stuart for the conception of the Walk of Fame, citing a press release from the HCoC in 1953 that the project would “[...] maintain the glory of a community whose name means glamour and excitement in the four corners of the world.” Separately, the Cultural Heritage Commission lists Oliver Weismuller, who was “hired by the City to give Hollywood a ‘face lift,’” as the artist and creator of the Walk of Fame. (CHC Case No: CHC-1978-96-HCM-CC1).
- Original construction on the Hollywood Walk of Fame began in 1958, with the installation of eight names as a proof of concept for the project.
- In 1960, work began on the insertion of over 1,550 named stars honoring those in the entertainment industry from television, motion picture, recording, and radio. The stars were paid for after an approved assessment of approximately \$1.2 million dollars.
- CFs 71376 and 71377 detail the City of Los Angeles’ original agreement for the placement of black and coral terrazzo stars on the public right of way, including the establishment of a procedure for processing new requests for stars.
- CF78-3949 superseded the language in 71376 and 71377 in order to clarify policy for permitting additional names on the Walk of Fame.
- The Walk of Fame stars are generally allowed on the sidewalk under 28.04(b) and (d) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, but only after Board of Public Works *and* City Council approval.
- According to the language of L.A.A.C [Sec. 22.109](#), “[no] work of art, until so approved [by the Cultural Affairs Commission by a majority vote], [shall] be erected or placed in or upon, or allowed to extend over or upon any municipal building, street, avenue, park or other public place or ground belonging to or under the control of the City of Los Angeles.” As of 3/8/24, the DCA denied they hold any purview over the Hollywood Walk of Fame, despite this section of the L.A.A.C defining “work of art” to include monuments and structures of a permanent character; with *any* alteration requiring DCA approval.
- The only active contract that exists between the City of Los Angeles and the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce according to the Office of the City Clerk, to their knowledge, is C-139266, which oversees the HCoC’s management of the East Hollywood Business Improvement District; the contract contains no mention of the Walk of Fame.
- The Walk of Fame currently hosts 2,783 named stars on Hollywood Blvd. and Vine St., all of which were voted on by the Los Angeles City Council. The Board of Public Works improperly stopped approving of Walk of Fame star installations in 1998 and have not regained compliance since.
- The Walk of Fame is voluntarily maintained and repaired by the Hollywood Historic Trust, a 501(c)(3) organization.

WoF Star Nomination Process

- Despite what the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce lists as the official nomination procedure for additional stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the only officially acknowledged policy by the City of L.A. is found in Exhibit A of [CF78-3949](#).
- According to the policy described in CF78-3949, requests for nominees can be made in writing directly to any city official or department, in addition to the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.
- There is no fee requirement listed for the submittal of names in CF78-3949.
- Zero language exists from the City of L.A. defining any permanency for any star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
- The self-imposed installation/maintenance/ceremony fee from the HCoC as of today is \$75,000, billed to the sponsor of every WoF honoree.
- In 2000, a report from the Cultural Heritage Commission quoted the projected construction cost of \$1,500/star.
- City language specifies that any work for new stars take place “without cost to the City.”

Historical Designation

- The Hollywood Walk of Fame is a City of L.A. Historic-Cultural Monument, or “HCM,” #194, established in 1978.
- The Walk of Fame is listed on the CA. Register of Historical Resources but not the National Register, though eligible.
- The Walk of Fame is **not** a state landmark or a national landmark; designations which the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and former officials had incorrectly alleged in the past.
- From the State Office of Historic Preservation: “Local government holds all land use authority over property under its jurisdiction, despite historical designation.” Supervisor Jay Correia also stated that removing one name on the Walk of Fame would be akin to removing a shingle from a rooftop and SOHP would not intervene.
- From L.A. City Planning: “Changing lettering on one or a handful of star panels would not constitute a substantial alteration of the monument.”
- From Lambert Giessinger of L.A.’s Office of Historic Preservation: “Removing, replacing, or adding a star emblem and lettering would not constitute a substantial alteration on the HCM” under Sec. 22.171.14 of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance.
- In an [article](#) published by the Los Angeles Times on 12/27/23, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce conceded that both the star plaques and the sidewalks they’re on, are L.A. City property.
- Celebrity panel installations do not require an EIR. Work to remove lettering would not require an EIR, either.

The Donald Trump Star (CF06-3258)

- The star was recommended by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce for Donald Trump's work on [Miss Universe](#), according to Ana Martinez, VP of Media Relations for the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.
- The star was installed in January of 2007, prior to a vote of approval from the L.A. City Council or the Board of Public Works, as required under the Los Angeles Municipal Code; terms which the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, its contractor, and the City of L.A. have repeatedly violated over the years.
- According to Leron Gubler, former president and CEO of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, a fee of "about \$20,000" was obtained for the star's installation and future maintenance (*New York Times*, Nov. 7, 2018). There is no public record of who paid the fee for Donald Trump's name.
- The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce was listed as the property owner of the Trump star in a felony complaint description for Case No. BA492871 for the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles. By the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce's own admission, this is incorrect, and the property owner is the City of Los Angeles.
- Defendant James Lambert Otis was ordered to pay \$4,400 in 2017 for his destruction of the star a year prior with a pickaxe.

Council File: 06-3258



Title

DONALD TRUMP / WALK OF FAME

Subject

Communication from the Bureau of Engineering, dated December 26, 2006, relative to the designation of the unnumbered location situated one sidewalk square northerly of and between numbered locations 20k and 20K as shown on Sheet 18 of Plan D-13788 for the Hollywood Walk of Fame for the installation of the name of Donald Trump at 6801 Hollywood Boulevard. The ceremony is scheduled for January 16, 2007.

Date Received / Introduced

12/28/2006

Last Changed Date

02/20/2007

Council District

13

Initiated by

Public Works: Engineering

File History

12-28-06 - For Council
 12-28-06 - File to Garcetti OK - ACCELERATED PROCEDURE
 1-8-07 - File to Rosendahl
 1-22-07 - File to Council and Legislative Processing Clerk
 2-9-07 - Council Action - Motion ADOPTED - to approve communication recommendation from Bureau of Engineering
 2-20-07 - File in files

Online Documents (Doc)

Title	Doc Date
Council Action	02/09/2007
Report from Bureau of Engineering	12/26/2006

Council Vote Information

Meeting Date: 02/09/2007
 Meeting Type: Regular
 Vote Action: Adopted
 Vote Given: (11 - 0 - 4)

Member Name	CD	Vote
TONY CARDENAS	6	ABSENT
ERIC GARCETTI	13	ABSENT
WENDY GREUEL	2	YES
JANICE HAHN	15	YES
JOSE HUIZAR	14	YES
TOM LABONGE	4	YES
BERNARD C PARKS	8	YES
JAN PERRY	9	YES
ED REYES	1	YES
BILL ROSENDAHL	11	YES
GREIG SMITH	12	YES
VACANT	7	ABSENT
JACK WEISS	5	YES
HERB WESSON	10	YES
DENNIS ZINE	3	ABSENT

Deaccessioning Policy

- The Trump star would qualify for two of the deaccessioning conditions according to the [L.A. County Civic Art Procedures, Section IX DEACCESSIONING](#), *if* it was a County-owned piece.
 - “1. The artwork has received consistent adverse public reaction for a period of five or more consecutive years.”
 - “5. The artwork requires excessive or unreasonable maintenance.”
- The City of Los Angeles does not currently follow a citywide deaccessioning policy for the removal of honorifics on public property.
- Former CM O’Farrell introduced CF20-0871 after the summer protests in 2020, for the CLA, the DCA, and other departments to “make recommendations on a citywide policy for accepting statues, monuments, honorifics, and naming-rights on City-owned land, property, and the public right of way” in addition to providing “a deaccessioning policy for the removal of art pieces [...]” The council file expired in 2022.
- What good are expert [recommendations](#) for the reconsideration of memorial and commemoration if the City of L.A. chooses not to follow them? civicmemory.la

Historical Precedent

- Coalition for Historical Integrity v. City of San Buenaventura: “This case illustrates the obvious; attitudes and values change. The City of San Buenaventura (City) removed a statue of Father Junipero Serra because it is now offensive to some members of the community.”--CA. 2nd District Court of Appeals, June 8, 2023.
- On Feb. 18, 2018, residents of the City of Arcata, CA., voted to remove a statue to former President William McKinley from the city’s plaza.
- The City of San Diego removed a plaque to Jefferson Davis in Horton Plaza Park, initially presented by the Daughters of the Confederacy in 1926. “San Diegans stand together against Confederate symbols of Division”--Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Aug. 12, 2017.
- “Permanent monuments displayed on public property typically represent government speech. [...] So, too, are privately financed and donated monuments that the government accepts for public display on public land [...] The accepted monuments are meant to convey and have the effect of conveying a government message and thus constitute government speech.”--Pleasant Grove v. Sumnum, majority opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Those Who Publicly Support Removing Trump's Name

- L.A. City Councilmembers Hugo Soto-Martinez, Nithya Raman, Bob Blumenfield, Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Curren Price, Kevin De Leon, former L.A. City Councilmember Mike Bonin, former City Attorney Mike Feuer, former Mayor of West Hollywood Sepi Shyne, Assemblymember Laura Friedman, State Senator Anthony Portantino, Silverlake Neighborhood Councilmember Maebe A. Girl, Joshua Bocanegra (candidate for CA30), Francesco Arreaga (candidate for CA30), Alex Mohajer (Stonewall Dems President Emeritus), former Mayor and Councilmember of West Hollywood, John D'Amico.
- The City of West Hollywood with its 2018, unanimously-passed resolution.
- Over 6,020 petitioners of [this petition](#).