

# FAQ Hollywood Walk of Fame / Donald Trump

## Who owns the Hollywood Walk of Fame star panels?

- According to the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce (HCoC), “the city owns all the stars and the sidewalks they’re embedded in.”—Los Angeles Times, Dec. 27, 2023. The City Attorney and L.A. City Planning have not disputed that statement, when asked.

## What is the historical designation of the Hollywood Walk of Fame?

- From communications and records provided from the National Park Service, the State Office of Historic Preservation, the South Central Coastal Information Center, and L.A.’s Cultural Heritage Commission, the Hollywood Walk of Fame is listed as a local, historic-cultural monument (#194, est. 1978) and is eligible for National Register listing with a status code of 2S2; but the Walk of Fame is not listed as a state landmark, is not listed on the National Register, and it is not a national landmark. The only protections extended to the overall Walk of Fame are described in the City’s Cultural Heritage Ordinance and CEQA.
- The seventeen-year old Walk of Fame plaque honoring Donald Trump does not hold any individual historical designation.

## What is the officially-recognized City of L.A. policy for nominating and adding stars to the Walk of Fame?

- The only policy recognized by the City of Los Angeles and originally agreed to by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, is found in [CF78-3949](#), which superseded the Walk of Fame procedures originally set forth in CFs 71376 and 71377. CF78-3949 is listed in every Bureau of Engineering report attached to every Walk of Fame nominee file for City Council consideration, including [Donald Trump’s](#).
- Donald Trump’s name was illegally installed on January 16, 2007, prior to Board of Public Works or City Council approval, violating LAMC Sections 28.04(b) and (d), and 62.105(a). The Board of Public Works, as of today, has never approved of the BOE’s recommendation for the insertion of Donald’s name.

## Why was Donald Trump’s name originally selected as a nominee?

- According to Ana Martinez of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, Donald Trump was [nominated](#) for his role as a producer on the [Miss Universe beauty pageant](#).
- The only apparent prerequisite for a nominee as outlined in CF78-3949 is that “each of the candidates was or is an [outstanding member](#) of the entertainment industry.”

## What are the permitting requirements for Walk of Fame work/installations?

- Permitting requirements for the Walk of Fame were enacted in 1957 under Ordinance #109896 (applicable Council File 78462) and are expressed in LAMC Sections 28.04(b) and (d), and in addition, 62.105(a). All permits for additional Walk of Fame names require *both* the approval of the Board of Public Works and the City Council.
- Preservation and maintenance policy for work on or adjacent to the Walk of Fame can be found in CF11-0124.

**What agency is responsible for maintaining the public right of way and the star panels on Hollywood Blvd. and Vine Street?**

- While the Hollywood Historic Trust, a 501(c)(3) organization, volunteers to maintain the stars and the terrazzo sidewalks, this is an open question involving L.A. Charter Section 580.

**Are there any active contracts between the City of Los Angeles and the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce or the Hollywood Historic Trust?**

- 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 Chamber's management of the East Hollywood Business Improvement District; it contains no mention of the Walk of Fame. EHBID's coverage area begins east of Kenmore Ave.
- There is no contract incorporating the Hollywood Historic Trust, except for a funding agreement of [\\$15,000](#) from 2007.

**What is the City of Los Angeles' current position concerning naming rights and memorialization on public land?**

- There is no citywide deaccessioning ("removal") or naming policy, although [CF20-0871](#) (expired in 2022) directed the CLA's office to draft a report. As of 7/1/24, the CLA's office confirmed that no report was forwarded to Council and action has expired.
- If the City Council followed the County's already-existing [deaccessioning policy](#) for civic art, Donald Trump's name would qualify for removal under two conditions:
  1. The plaque has received consistent adverse public reaction for a period of five or more consecutive years.
  2. The work requires excessive or unreasonable maintenance.
- The [report](#) "Past Due" (2021) lists a series of key recommendations and considerations for the re-naming and potential removal of problematic monuments, statues, and memorials on public land.
- Because the City of Los Angeles doesn't yet subscribe to any deaccessioning policy overseeing the Walk of Fame, it is only bound to the terms set forth in the Cultural Heritage Ordinance for any "substantial alteration" of the monument. Lambert Giessinger of the Office of Historic Preservation stated "Removing, replacing, or adding a star emblem and lettering would not constitute a substantial alteration on the HCM."

**Has a Walk of Fame name ever been removed?**

- No, but no honoree has ever attempted a coup against the United States, either. To quote Supervisor Jay Correia with the State Office of Historic Preservation: "Local government holds all land use authority over property under its jurisdiction, despite historical designation."
- In 1972, Councilman and Public Works Chair Louis R. Nowell, voted against the adoption of Charlie Chaplin's name on the Walk of Fame because in his words "The conservative people in my district, and there are many of them, would object to my voting for a star for him."—March 7, 1972.

## **Does the City of Los Angeles currently hold any enforcement mechanism to remove Walk of Fame stars?**

- Yes. LAMC Section 28.04 (c) states “Any hand-bill or sign found posted or otherwise affixed upon any public or utility property **contrary to the provisions of this section** may be removed by any company, utility, organization, or individual owning or responsible for maintaining that property, the Police Department or the Department of Public Works.”

## **What have state and federal courts said regarding municipal authority, government speech, and honorifics/memorials?**

- CA.’s 2<sup>nd</sup> District Court of Appeal upheld Ventura’s recent removal of a statue honoring Junipero Serra, proclaiming in its ruling “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 significant members of the community.”—June 8, 2023
- “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. Summum, majority opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States.

## **If the City Council removes Trump’s name, wouldn’t it create a slippery slope for other names?**

- In my opinion, no. The City Council would need to individually respond to petitions for removal of additional names and so far, they haven’t even budged on the most contested one of all. Fear of a wholesale erasure of dozens of names on the Walk is unfounded, and there’s no indication that any elected officials have an appetite for that.
- Although I believe a handful of other names, including Bill Cosby, should be reviewed, no other celebrity panel has created a level of public nuisance that the Trump star has.

## **Who endorses the removal of Trump’s name from the Walk of Fame?**

- 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](#).





Trump star defacement from June, 2020.





MAGA merchandise vending table located next to the Trump star is now a fixture on Hollywood Blvd., since at least October, 2023.





Hazardous divot on the Trump star photographed during Chris Hemsworth's ceremony, 5/23/24.





Hazardous divet on the Trump star photographed on 7/1/24.





A barricade and plywood block access to the Trump star on 11/12/20, obstructing the public right of way.