



Annual Meeting Features Illustrated Talk on Famous Murals

The Santa Monica Conservancy's Annual Meeting will take place on **Saturday, April 8 from 2-4 pm** at the award-winning Santa Monica Public Library (601 Santa Monica Blvd.). After a brief meeting to review the Conservancy's work, hold elections and present the 2017 Preservation Awards, the program will feature the dramatic story of the return of Stanton Macdonald-Wright's murals to our main library in 2005.

From 1934-1935, Macdonald-Wright painted an extensive mural cycle portraying humanity's accomplishments in the creative arts, science and

technology covering the main reading room of our original Carnegie Library. Macdonald-Wright went on to become the California director of the Federal Art Project for the Works Progress Administration from 1935-1942.

Raised in Santa Monica, he lived in Europe from 1909-1918, mingling with avant-garde artists, and co-founding a color abstraction style known as Synchronism. However, Macdonald-Wright is best known as a muralist, and the library was the site of his first mural project, painted on over 30 plywood panels positioned around doors, windows, archways and bookcases in its original setting.

When the Carnegie Library was demolished in the mid-1960s for a new and larger building, the murals were removed, reclaimed by the federal government, and stored at the Smithsonian for decades. Local arts activists and council members, long advocating for their return to Santa

ANNUAL MEETING continues on page 5



Stanton Macdonald-Wright mural of movie actress Gloria Stuart, Leo Carillo, Judge Juan J. Carillo and director Frank Tuttle.

Photo: Los Angeles Public Library

Three's a Charm: The Conservancy Receives an L.A. Conservancy Award

We did it again! The Santa Monica Conservancy will be recognized by the Los Angeles Conservancy with a Preservation Award at its 35th Annual Preservation Award luncheon at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel on May 3. The Conservancy's rehabilitation of the Shotgun House was cited as a "fantastic example of grassroots advocacy and reuse for educational purposes," by Adrian Scott Fine, Director of Advocacy for the Los Angeles Conservancy.

This is the third award the Conservancy has received for our work on the Shotgun House, demonstrating outstanding achievement in historic preservation, and adding to recent awards given by the California Preservation Foundation and the Office of the Governor.

"It is a testament to the perseverance and dedication shown by the community and very committed Conservancy volunteers in making this project a reality and hopefully, an inspiration for others to find creative and sustainable ways to use our historic structures," said Santa Monica Conservancy president Carol Lemlein.

The Los Angeles Conservancy's Preservation Awards are selected by an independent jury of distinguished architects, preservation professionals, and business and community leaders. This year 22 applications were received and 8 were selected for awards.

Remembering California's First Female Architect, Julia Morgan

By Ruthann Lebrer

Julia Morgan, whose legacy at the An-nenberg Community Beach House was but one of her prodigious accomplishments as California's first female architect, is the focus of special free programs to be presented on Sunday, March 5, at the Beach House (415 Pacific Coast Highway) she designed in the 1920s.

Morgan was awarded her California architect's license in 1904, and this year marks the 60th anniversary of her death in 1957. William Randolph Hearst and his mother Phoebe Hearst were clients of Morgan, providing commissions for many of her signature accomplishments: Hearst Castle, the Asilomar Conference Center, the Greek Theater at UC Berkeley and numerous YWCAs in California among other sites. The impres-



Julia Morgan with W.R. Hearst in 1926.

Photo: National Women's History Museum

sive former Herald Examiner building in downtown Los Angeles, now being converted for a new use, is another of Morgan's works. At the Beach House today, her stunning Georgian Revival Guest House and 100-foot-long pool form the historic core of the site which was built for silent film star Marion Davies. Morgan was awarded a Gold Medal posthumously in 2014 by the American In-

JULIA MORGAN continues on page 4

New Online Preservation Resource Directory, p. 4

OUR MISSION

The Santa Monica Conservancy is the leading voice for preserving our historic places. We promote understanding of the cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits of historic preservation through education, assistance and advocacy.

JOIN US

The Santa Monica Conservancy exists because of the involvement and generosity of people like you. Become a member today and strengthen our voice for preserving Santa Monica's architectural and cultural heritage.

Membership information is available on p. 7

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11 am - 2 pm and by appointment

THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

Tom Hofer	Robin Tung
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Ruthann Lehrer	
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Dolores Sloan	

This newsletter is supported in part by a grant from the City of Santa Monica and the Santa Monica Arts Commission.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just a year after opening the Preservation Resource Center, we have much to celebrate! We have just received our third prestigious preservation award—this time from the Los Angeles Conservancy, following awards from the Governor of California and the California Preservation Foundation. Our determination to demonstrate that adaptive reuse can be both successful as well as sustainable has earned us a LEED™ Gold rating, culminating in years of pro bono effort by a team led by Board vice president John Zinner. At the Anniversary Celebration, we introduced several new exhibits and brought our total visitor attendance to nearly 2,000 since opening.



I want to turn from celebration, however, to talk about some of the challenges ahead. We have long considered publishing a list of local buildings and places at risk, following the lead of organizations ranging from Pasadena Heritage to the National Trust. I'd like to begin that process somewhat informally by describing several landmarks that your Board of Directors is concerned about.

The 1958 **Civic Auditorium**, an excellent example of mid-20th century International Style designed by Welton Beckett & Associates, has been beloved for decades of performances by virtually every famous musician of the era as well as the site of the Academy Awards in the 1960s. In 2013, after the elimination of redevelopment funding which was expected to pay for a full renovation including an upgrade of its outdated systems and seismic retrofit, all but the east wing was closed. Today, even after many months of work by the Council-appointed Civic Working Group, we seem no closer to a long-term solution for revitalization of the Civic—and its protection from earthquakes—than we were in 2013. Competing uses for the area are also narrowing the possibilities for progress.

The 1947 **Sears** building at 302 Colorado Avenue was designated in 2005 as an excellent example of the Late Moderne style. Sears plans to close in April. Seritage, the investment trust that owns the property, has proposed an adaptive reuse with small-scale retail, restaurants and creative office while also addressing seismic weaknesses. But the plan is unlikely to move forward until the Downtown Community Plan is complete, leaving it vacant and vulnerable to earthquake damage for several years.

The Colonial Revival-style garden apartments at **423-431 Ocean Avenue**, constructed during the mid-1930s, have stood vacant since 2010. They were designated after overcoming the owner's appeal to Council and are threatened with demolition of all but the most visible facades to be re-developed as a condominium project. While some additional preservation is now proposed, the current project design is still out of scale and an inappropriate treatment of a landmark.



Photo: Historic Resources Group.

The former **Home Savings Bank** (1970) at 26th and Wilshire, was among the forty locations that architectural designer Millard Sheets created for the financial institution between the 1950s and 1970s with distinctive art and sculpture depicting local themes. Its designation by the Landmarks Commission in 2013 was appealed by the owner, who wants to demolish the building in favor of extensive development on the site. Its future remains uncertain. The Conservancy has consistently supported its designation.

The Conservancy will continue to monitor these endangered buildings, and will let you know when your help will be needed to rally support for their protection.

Carol Lemlein

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Kevin Herrera

By Robin Tung



A native of Santa Monica, Kevin Herrera spent his childhood summers visiting Rip City Skates and skateboarding in Douglas Park. While pursuing his B.A. in Print Journalism and English at USC, Herrera discovered his

love of architecture and preservation. "While on campus, I would often take walks and look up at the older buildings to see the intricate craftsmanship and detail," Herrera said. "They can tell a story without saying a word."

Herrera first became involved with the Conservancy nearly three years ago while helping with the programming of the 25th anniversary of the Third Street Promenade. Given his love for Downtown Santa Monica and the history of buildings, he became a docent for our Downtown Walking Tours. "We need to keep these tremendously important buildings

around so that we can continue to understand who we are and where we came from. Not only are many of these buildings still in great shape and provide housing, or places to work and play, but they are awesome teaching tools that help bring the past to life."

In addition to docenting, Herrera also volunteers as a writer for the Conservancy's newsletter and website. He enjoys watching classic films, discovering new music, reading *The Economist*, having a beer at the Daily Pint, traveling to San Sebastian, Spain, and backpacking in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Happy Birthday, Marion!

By Libby Pachares

On January 15, Santa Monica Conservancy docents welcomed visitors to the Annenberg Community Beach House to celebrate what would have been the 120th birthday of silent film star and philanthropist Marion Davies. Docents in vintage attire toasted Davies and re-created the festive atmosphere that Marion's Beach House parties were known for. Helping to set the stage were musicians Danny Meyer and the LA Love Band, dancers from the Santa Monica

Arthur Murray Dance Studio, and magician Tom Frank. Also on hand were Davies' biographer Lara Fowler who screened home movies from Davies and Hearst's European travels, and film producer and historian Elaina Archer who introduced Davies' 1931 film "Bachelor Father."

Party-goers had the opportunity to join a conga line with docents costumed as Harpo and Zeppo Marx, Charlie Chaplin, Zasu Pitts, Jean Harlow, Barbara Stanwyck and Mae West. A photo booth helped capture the Beach House fun.



Photos: Jason Abraham



San Diego Fun

By Libby Pachares

Hats off to Docent Council member Phillis Dudick for organizing another fabulous holiday excursion for Conservancy docents, members and guests. Travelers were treated to very informative docent-led tours of the Museum of Music Making in Carlsbad and of Balboa Park in San Diego, including the Old Globe Theater. Staying overnight in

Old Town San Diego, participants had an opportunity to soak in the historic district and partake in the holiday festivities centered there. The trip culminated with dinner at the Red Fox Steakhouse in the Lafayette Hotel where diners viewed the Tudor paneling, fireplace and bar which Hearst originally acquired from The Red Fox (an old inn located in Surrey, England) for inclusion at the Annenberg Community Beach House in Santa Monica.



Docents and their guests in front of the Old Globe Theatre at Balboa Park.

One-Year Anniversary of the Preservation Resource Center

Thank you to our wonderful docents and volunteers: Tom Cleys, Phillis Dudick, Jean Fleet, Mario Fonda-Bonardi, Nina Fresco, Gena Garrett, Chris Gray, Alison Rose Jefferson, Tim Kline, Jane Koehler, Sherrill Kushner, Carol Lemlein, Diane Locklear, Arline Minter, Eric Natwig, Denise Orlando, Sylvia and Herb Rose, Shannon Ryan, Lorraine Sanchez, Laurel Schmidt, and Hilda Weiss.

And thank you to our speaker Chris Morris, Los Angeles Field Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Alex and Shugi Cassini, our hosts at the Merle Norman House, representatives of the Ocean Park Association, Santa Monica Travel and Tourism, the Santa Monica History Museum, and the Main Street Merchants, and finally to the Theodore Payne Foundation, Holy Guacamole, Horchata Bakery and FormLA for their donations.



String Madness

Photo: Sadat Huq



Speaker Chris Morris, Los Angeles Field Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Photo: Sadat Huq



Robin Tung, Ruthann Lehrer, Alan Merson and Chris Gray.

Photo: Eric Natwig

A Garden Befitting Our Green Shotgun House

As the Conservancy sensitively preserved the Shotgun House, it also paid keen attention to its surrounding landscaping. With the help of FormLA Landscaping, the Conservancy created a charming garden along the front and side of the building, showcasing native plants that help sustain the environment. Throughout the year, the foliage in the garden ranges from the subtle green California sagebrush to the silver Santa Cruz Island buckwheat, and blossoms include the ruby pompons of the red-flowered buckwheat, yellow yarrow, white royal penstemon, and pink-tufted coyote mint. The plants are not only drought tolerant, they also provide food and habitat for birds, bees and other insects that thrive best on California natives. For example, the narrow-leafed milkweed is the preferred food for Monarch butterfly caterpillars, and the California fuchsia consistently attracts hummingbirds. We are fortunate to have docents Lorraine Sanchez and Hilda Weiss to help maintain it year-round.



Native plants including zauscheria, yarrow, and red buckwheat.

Photos: FormLA



Yellow bladderpod

New Online Preservation Resource Directory

By Kaitlin Drisko

The Santa Monica Conservancy is launching a new Preservation Resource Directory as part of the preservation resources offered on our website. This member-driven directory of businesses and craftspeople who specialize in providing goods and services for historic preservation encourages restoration, rehabilitation and renovation of historic structures. The directory also promotes and facilitates communication between historic preservation professionals and the public. The list will organize groups of consultants, contractors and suppliers of building materials or products.

We invite Conservancy members to explore the new Preservation Resource Directory, which will include current business members who have provided goods and services in the restoration of our Shotgun House. To expand the directory, listings will be added by member referrals based on successful project experiences as well as from businesses and professionals involved in projects receiving the Conservancy's Preservation Awards. Businesses listed in the directory will be asked to provide a referral from at least one client or professional who has worked with them on a preservation project. The Conservancy does not guarantee the work and products of those listed in the directory. Users of the directory are encouraged to review licenses, insurance coverages, references and customer ratings. Consulting with the City of Santa Monica staff for approvals may also be necessary before starting a preservation project. Referral forms and directory application forms can be found at www.smconservancy.org.

JULIA MORGAN *continued from page 1*
stitute of Architects.

Santa Monica Conservancy docents will highlight the Julia Morgan Guest House on tours from 11 am - 2 pm. At 12:30 pm in the Garden Terrace Room, a panel discussion titled "Women Designers Then and Now" will be led by Santa Monica City architect Pooja Bhagat. The panel, organized by The Association of Women in Architecture + Design, will examine the challenges faced by women in the design professions.

The event is free but reservations are recommended, at www.annenbergbeach-house.com. Paid parking is available in a lot adjacent to the Beach House, which is also accessible by bus.

Holiday Party at the Bundy House



Bundy House hosts Meredith Stiehm and Tom Smuts on the right with Conservancy board member Libby Motika and Tom Shardlow. Photos: Rich Schmitt

Thank you to our gracious hosts, Meredith Stiehm and Tom Smuts, for opening their beautiful, landmarked home. Our gratitude also to our wonderful volunteers: Phyllis Conkle, Susan Eve, Dwight Flowers, Jean Fleet, Mary Ann Hays, Jane Wiedlea-Koehler, Ursula Kress, Ruthann Lehrer, Diane Locklear, Fran Lyness, Diane Miller, Elizabeth Motika, Kristin Shank, Tom Shardlow, and Ruth Shari.



George and Ruth Boorujy, Phyllis Dudick, Jason Cagan, and Evelyn Maggiore.



Volunteers Diane Locklear, Jane Koehler, Graciela Salazar and Ursula Kress.

Conservancy Achieves LEED™ Gold

By John Zinner

Led by a pro bono team, the Shotgun House has been awarded LEED™ Gold certification. LEED™ is a U.S.-based family of green building rating systems utilized in over 150 countries. The Conservancy sought LEED™ certification for the Shotgun House to emphasize that historic renovation, especially adaptive reuse, is environmentally beneficial.

Buildings are LEED™ certified at one of four levels, Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum, depending on how many points they earn. Points are awarded based on environmental benefit.

LEED™ has five major categories. These are listed below along with key credits in each category earned by the Shotgun House:

- Site: community connectivity and transit access
- Water: interior water savings of over 45%; landscape water savings over 50%
- Resources & Materials: reuse of over 95% of the building; recycled over 95% of all construction waste

- Indoor Environmental Quality: low emitting materials; daylight; views

A poster explaining the LEED™ award has proudly been added to the collection hanging in the Shotgun House.

Thanks to all those who assisted, especially Engineering Economics, Inc. (EEI), Brummitt Energy Associates, Carbon Solutions Group, Recology and the team at Zinner Consultants, particularly Glen Boldt for his pro bono efforts and donations.

ANNUAL MEETING *continued from page 1*

Monica, were finally successful, and the murals have been re-placed in the new modern building designed by the award-winning firm Moore Ruble Yudell. Macdonald-Wright also created the murals in City Hall's lobby, and murals and a unique fire curtain at Santa Monica High School's Barnum Hall. His work was featured in a major retrospective at LACMA in 2001.

Reservations are free and can be made online at www.smconservancy.org or by emailing rsvp@smconservancy.org. Paid parking is available and can be accessed from 7th Street between Santa Monica Blvd. and Arizona Ave.

Breisch on the Los Angeles Central Library

The Los Angeles Central Library: Building an Architectural Icon, 1872-1933 traces how the library evolved from a private library association into one of the largest public library systems in the U.S.— with architect Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue's building, a beloved L.A. landmark, as its centerpiece. Author Ken Breisch, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the School of Architecture at the University of Southern California, and the former Director and founder of the School's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation. The Los Angeles Central Library is now available through Getty Research Institute Publications and online at Amazon.

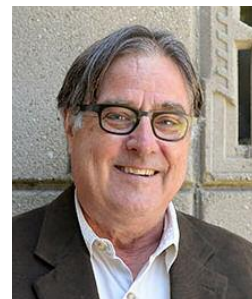


Photo: SAHCC

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

Lauren Bell & Jeffrey Yudkoff
Jason Cagan
Steven & Oleg Casman
Pat Cramer
Barbara Guschewski
Liane Hall
Rebecca & Tom Hawley
Cynthia Heydt
Leigh Ann & James Hill
Timothy Kline
Myron & Arlene Lieberman
Tony Manzella & Rebecca Nevitt

Richard Mattingly & Denise Flannery-Riley
Eric Maurin
Sandi & Gregory Orloff
Paul Parsons & Claire Gastambide
Donna Presley
Nancy Reid
Laurie Rocha
Kathleen Roche
Pam Salter
Steven Stogel & Melinda Allen
Elizabeth Stone
Carolyn Stuart



Landmarks Commission Report

By Dolores Sloan,
Chair Pro Tempore, Landmarks Commission

Two multi-family sites were recently designated as Santa Monica landmarks by the Landmarks Commission. These designations were significant in that they were both owner-initiated.



Photo:: ESA PCR

SUN-TECH TOWNHOMES

The eighteen-unit Sun-Tech townhome complex at 2433 28th Street, recognizable by its smokestacks, metal frame windows, and tubular pipe railings, has been cited for its historic, aesthetic and architectural significance. Postmodern, with references to Modern and Industrial precedents, the property was completed and first occupied in 1981 and is the first landmark designation in its Sunset Park neighborhood. Although the complex is less than the fifty-year landmarks threshold recommended by the National Parks Service, the Commission agreed that the association of its architectural team with the then Santa-Monica-based Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) satisfies the National Parks Service standard of "exceptional impor-

ance." SCI-Arc has encouraged innovation and openness to unstructured approaches in design and architecture.

PURSER APARTMENTS

Generations of professional, amateur and tourist photographers have long memorialized the five-arch colonnade of 1659 Ocean Front Walk as a backdrop for the body builders on Santa Monica beachfront's Muscle Beach. In the landmark designation for the Purser Apartments, Commissioners noted it as a familiar feature south of the Santa Monica Pier since its construction in 1913. The three- and four-storied vernacular style structure, with Italian Renaissance Revival features, was part of the Seaside Terrace Tract, developed to serve those seeking the recreational offerings of the burgeoning beachfront.

Other properties in the popular pier neighborhood have also received recent Commission attention. Earl's Seaside Tavern, which is replacing Ristorante al Mare in the historic Billiard Building at 250 Santa Monica Pier, has been granted a façade remodel and signage request, and as reported in the Conservancy's December newsletter, nearby commercial structures at 1601-1619 Ocean Front Walk have received landmark designation.

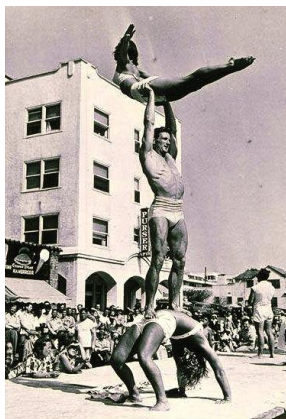


Photo: Santa Monica Public Library

Two New Landmark Commissioners

By Sherrill Kushner

Richard Brand and Amy Green were recently appointed to the seven-member Landmarks Commission by the Santa Monica City Council. Brand and Green replace Leslie Lambert and Barbara Kaplan.

Richard Brand, AIA, a licensed architect for over 30 years, is principal project director at Arcadis. His experience includes renovating State and Federal Historic Landmark buildings for the U.S. Postal Service as well as historic buildings in Pasadena and Los Angeles. In Santa Monica,



he was the project architect for the 1990s renovation of the former Post Office at 5th and Arizona. Brand also serves on the Board of the Downtown Neighborhood Association.

Amy Green is a conservator of sculpture and architectural finishes. She has a Master's degree in conservation from Antioch University and a Certificate in Historic Preservation from USC. She co-owns Silverlake Conservation, a firm whose projects have included preservation work for the Griffith Observatory, the Japanese American National Museum and Wilshire Boulevard Temple, among other projects.

Established in 1975, the mission of the Landmarks Commission is to protect and safeguard the City's historic places and heritage.

2017 SPRING PRESERVATION EVENTS

EXHIBIT

The Journey of Girl Scouts:
Empowering Young Women
JANUARY 24-MARCH 15

Celebrate the history of the Girl Scouts of the USA with this special exhibit featuring documents, photographs, memorabilia, and artifacts like uniforms dating back to the 1940s.

Santa Monica History Museum

(310) 395-2290

www.santamonicahistory.org

TOUR

Walk Wright In: Hollyhock House
Self-guided Tours

**THURSDAYS THROUGH SUNDAYS,
11:00 AM - 3:30 PM**

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Barnsdall Art Park

(323) 913-4030

www.barnsdall.org

TOUR

Union Station Walking Tour

SATURDAYS, 10:00 AM

Discover the architecture, art, culture, and social history of one of the great landmarks of Los Angeles, the 1939 Union Station.

Los Angeles Conservancy

(213) 623-2489

www.laconservancy.org

TOUR

Modern Works

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

From Mid-Century post-and-beam to late modern glass-and-steel wonders, this year's home tour will visit multiple architect-designed private homes constructed after 1945.

Pasadena Heritage

(626) 441-6333

www.pasadenaheritage.org

EVENT

Avalon Ball

SATURDAY, MAY 20

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Enjoy an evening of dancing and music in the opulent 1929 Art Deco Casino Ballroom on Catalina Island. The ballroom features completely restored rose-hued walls, a fifty-foot ceiling with five Tiffany chandeliers, and a vintage full-service bar.

Art Deco Society of Los Angeles

(310) 659-3326

www.adsloa.org

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email: dwt@smconservancy.org

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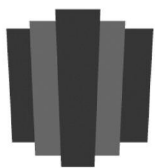
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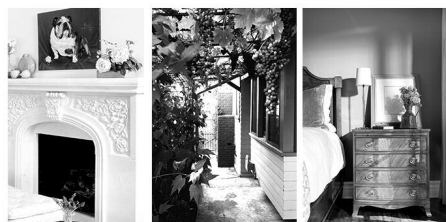


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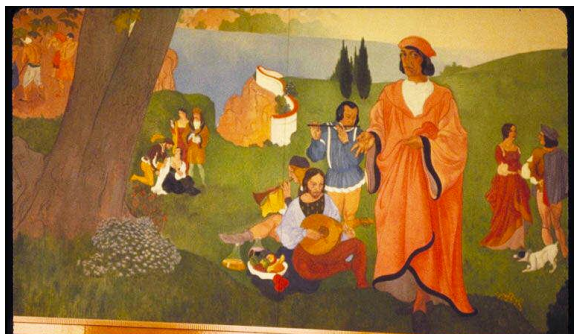
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2017 ANNUAL MEETING AND PRESERVATION AWARDS

Year in Review
Board Elections
Stanton MacDonald-Wright Murals
Register at www.smconservancy.org

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8
2-4 pm**

Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90401



Santa Monica Public Library

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS

Every Saturday at 10 am

Free Tours on
March 4, 11, 18, 25

Reservations required

1436 Second Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401
\$10 public / \$5 members



ANNUAL FUNDRAISING SALON

AT A LANDMARK
OF THE FUTURE
DESIGNED BY
ARCHITECT RAY KAPPE

**SATURDAY
JUNE 10**

Details coming soon



Photo: LivingHomes