



# Save Our Heritage Organisation

*Saving San Diego's Past for the Future*

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

City of San Diego  
Chair McCullough, Historical Resources Board & staff  
202 C Street  
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: October 25, 2018 agenda - Items B, 5, 6, and 9

Chair McCullough, Historical Resources Board (HRB) members, & staff,

Item B, Stakeholder Input for the City of San Diego Parks Master Plan: The City of San Diego is quite fortunate to house several National Historical Landmarks and three that are part of our parks and recreation system: Presidio Park, Balboa Park, and Chicano Park. As the location of the first mission, presidio, and settlement on the western coast, Presidio Park is poised to commemorate its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019; however, the current condition and prioritization of this park do not respect the crucial role it has played in San Diego and California history. Not only should this park be of the utmost priority, the current condition of the park illustrates severe deferred maintenance of the buildings, dead plants due to lack of watering, and litter ornamenting the Serra Cross. Balboa Park, another crown jewel and icon of San Diego, also suffers from lack of maintenance as well as a funding source to keep these buildings in regular repair and working order. Last, as Chicano Park is closely associated with the Chicano Civil Rights Movement and home to the largest collection of outdoor murals in the entire United States, it is at regular risk of being defaced and must be prioritized in the Parks Master Plan also. These National Historical Landmarks are not only municipal parks, they also represent very significant history to San Diego and California, and therefore, must be respected and prioritized.

Item 6, 3941 Albatross Street: After a site visit, historical research and review of the submitted report, SOHO concurs with the staff report that this Arts and Crafts era building is highly intact and significant under Criterion C. As noted in the consultant's report, significant features include the single-story form, low pitch front gable, wide eaves, and projecting beams. The front porch appears today to be consistent with the 1921 Sanborn map, while the relocated garage, landscaping pavers, and enclosed rear porch do not negatively impact the significance or integrity of this property. There is no evidence that the chimney is a later addition, as suggested in the report, even though it is not illustrated on Sanborn maps, because these were not always detailed correctly. SOHO also disagrees with the report that the resource is not significant because it doesn't illustrate other or further Arts and Crafts era detail – as this is in no way a requirement. Last, the report notes the resource is in "fair condition," which is not the same as historical integrity or part of this historical assessment.

Item 9, Melhorn & Son Historic District (2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing): SOHO strongly supports the Melhorn & Son Historic District, including the proposed District Boundary, the Historic Context, Statement of Significance, and Periods of Significance (1924-1948) under Criteria A and D. With the reclassification of 4515 and 4541 Louisiana Street, SOHO also supports the contributing and non-contributing resources as identified, and encourages the HRB to adopt this historic district.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Bruce Coons  
Executive Director  
Save Our Heritage Organisation