

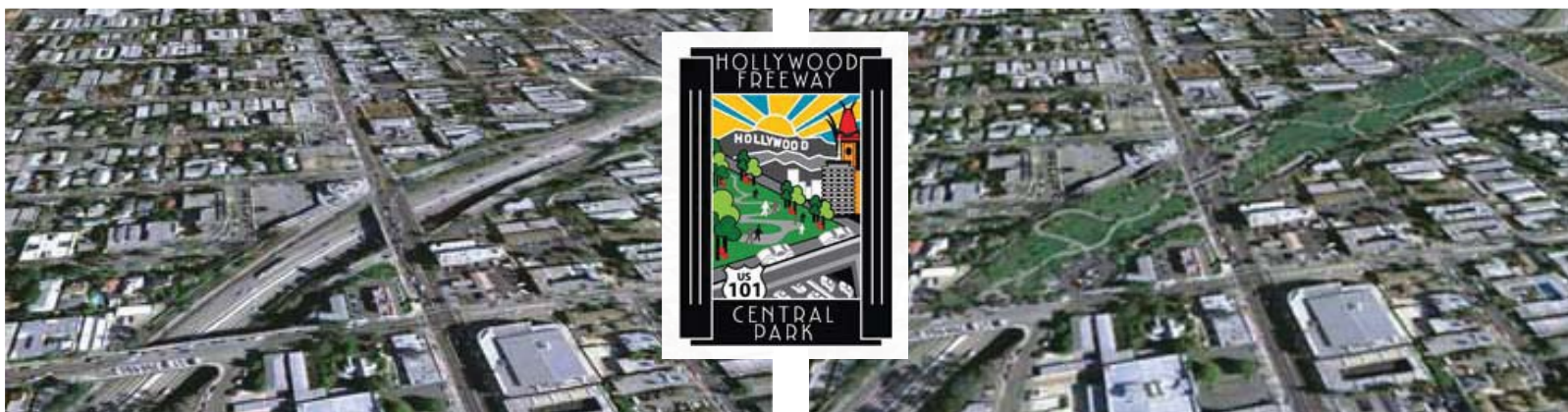
Hollywood United Neighborhood Council BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS take place on MAY 13, 2010!!

MAY 10th - Come meet the candidates running for office at Counterpoint Harmony, 5911 1/2 Franklin Avenue (323) 957-7967, 5:30 - 8:30 pm.

PARTICIPATE May 13th by voting for the candidates running for office between the hours of 2pm - 8pm at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Hollywood Blvd at Van Ness. Free Parking, Van Ness entrance.

You do not have to bring evidence where you live or work or attend church in the Hollywood United Neighborhood Council area in order to vote. Boundaries are: Hollywood Blvd on the South; North of Hollywood Hills on the North; Western Avenue on the East; Cahuenga Blvd. on the West.

Visualizing the Hollywood Freeway Central Park



Before

After

HUNC's Territory

by David Schlesinger

One of the unique qualities of our Neighborhood Council district is its great diversity. A walk from one of two of its famous spots to another displays some of its many aspects. Begin at Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street and go north to the Hollywood sign. At the point of beginning the new "W" Hotel, still under construction is tall enough to qualify as a skyscraper for sure. The now modest 13 stories of the former Broadway Hollywood and the Taft and Equitable buildings complete the intensely urban quality. This is big city architecture. Proceeding north on Vine one passes the Capitol Records tower. It's planned that it be flanked by more skyscrapers—office towers and a hotel. Turning right on Yucca Street and going east a block, on the south-west corner a fourteen-story condominium is scheduled for construction. Cater corner across the intersection with Argyle a new high-rise hotel is planned. From here a few steps under the 101 Freeway and one is in a low-rise world of a small hotel and multi-story apartments. East on Franklin and you face the long ascent towards the hills up Beachwood Drive. With the few exceptions of old single family houses, two-story apartment buildings line the street, one after another, all the way to the entrance to Hollywoodland. Leaving the little shopping village at the gates, the houses become larger and more pretentious as the ascent steepens. At the end of Beachwood is a rural enclave: the horse stables. And then one is in the chaparral of the wilderness of Griffith Park, with the Hollywood Sign near the crest. In perhaps two miles the stroller [now a hiker] has encountered all these different kinds of living with all their different attendant activities and traffic. Where else in this city is there so much

Thai Town *continued from page 1—*

barbecue chicken with spicy peanut sauce; Tom Yam Kung—hot and sour shrimp soup; and Phat Thai—stir-fried Thai noodle. Basil, chiles, cilantro, coconut milk, lemon grass, lime and curries are used to create Thai dishes.

Thai Town traces its roots to migrations from Thailand beginning in the 1920s, with students seeking higher education. The Federal Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 provided another opportunity for Asian immigration. For the Thai community it meant a second migration: those seeking family reunification and a new stream of university students. Some of these immigrants later became the first generation of business owners in Hollywood, establishing businesses near the Hollywood Boulevard-Winona



intersection and on Melrose Avenue—the Bangkok Market. A spiritual and educational center was established in North Hollywood with the founding of the Thai Buddhist Temple. An emerging business community experienced growing pains—hyper-competitiveness, high business turnover and an

oversaturation of Thai restaurants. Compounding these problems was the civil unrest in Los Angeles in 1992.

Chancee Martorell, now executive director of Thai CDC, understood the need to address ethnic-racial tensions in Los Angeles and the needs of under-served communities. She initially focused on increasing the visibility and cohesiveness of the Thai community, addressing tensions between ethnic communities, and probing disparities in community investment opportunities.

Out of this vision, the Thai Community Development Corporation (Thai CDC) was founded in 1994 with the goal of discovering the assets of East Hollywood, making Thai Town a cultural destination and attracting more capital investment to the area. On Oct. 27, 1999, the L.A. City Council voted unanimously to approve the Thai Town designation for a 6-block stretch along Hollywood Boulevard, from Western to Normandie.

Today, Thai CDC works closely with the CRA, Department of City Planning, neighborhood councils and the Eastwood Coalition on redevelopment and beautification opportunities. It secured funding for the Thai Town Gateway, worked on streetscapes, advocated for a community voice for the East Hollywood Project and provides affordable housing at the Halifax Apartments and at units on Western Avenue. It is committed



to improving the quality of life and opportunities for all stakeholders in Hollywood and is a participant in the Human Development Overlay District project, which invites all who call Hollywood home to shape a 21st-century vision for the community.

<http://www.hdod.org/hollywood/home.aspx>

There are numerous opportunities to experience the art, culture and hospitality of the Thai community. This year's Thai New Year's Day Songkran Festival drew more than 100,000 people who enjoyed food, music, classical dance and the parade. Barnsdall Park will be the site of the Thai Cultural Day Festival on Sunday, September 20th. For more information visit: <http://www.thaicdhome.org>



Thai New Year's Day Songkran Festival in East Hollywood 2008

The Hollywood Freeway Central Park by Margaret Marmolejo

Hollywood is one of the lowest resident-to-park space communities in California. With the cost of real estate and an increasingly dense population, it is cheaper to put a cap over the Hollywood Freeway to build a park than to buy land in the middle of Hollywood. For years, this has been a dream of residents, and now it is a reality.

The City of Los Angeles and Hollywood Chamber of Commerce did a feasibility study that was completed in November 2008 and it was found that there is government money that could be applied for to fund a major portion of the project.

Recently, the USC Graduate Architecture Program used the Cap Park as its subject for its spring semester 2009 Landscape Architecture Master's Degree course. Student teams came up with three distinct architecture plans. Their creativity and vision was inspiring. The 44-acre cap park would be built on a deck constructed over the portion of the Hollywood 101 Freeway that is below ground level from Bronson Avenue to Wilton Place. The park will provide the following benefits: It is expected to produce more than 4,500 construction jobs. Long needed freeway on/

off-ramp improvements will be made and freeway functioning will be streamlined. Air quality will be improved and global warming will be reduced by freeway surfaces being replaced with green surfaces. It will serve as a demonstration project for 21st century cutting-edge environmental technologies and it will reconnect parts of Hollywood split for decades by the freeway. It will serve as a national model for the creation of new green space in a dense, urban environment. Keep informed at the following website: hollywoodfreewaycentralpark.org