



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association ■ Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 ■ September 2020



Sacramento's Preservation Commission Receives a Commission Excellence Award for the Historic District Plans Project



The Sacramento Preservation Commission was honored on August 5, 2020 with a Commission Excellence Award from the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC). The mission of the National Alliance is to build strong local preservation programs through education, advocacy, and training. The Commission Excellence Awards recognize and honor outstanding efforts and achievements by local preservation, historic district, and landmark commissions and boards of architectural review. The honorees are selected from a large pool of nominations from across the country. Sacramento earned this award in the category of "Best Practices in Protection" for the development of the city's Historic District Plans Project.

In 2016, the Preservation Commission was faced with an infill development proposal that appeared to be inconsistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties. The Commission quickly formed an ad hoc committee that developed a series of recommendations for reviewing infill development proposals, recommendations that were subsequently adopted by the full Commission. These recommendations formed the impetus for the Historic District Plans Project. At the time, BPNA Board Member Jon Marshack was Chair of the Preservation Commission and headed its Infill Development Ad Hoc Committee.

The Historic District Plans Project was guided by the historic preservation firm of Page & Turnbull. Using resources identified by City Councilmember Steve Hansen, the consultants worked with City staff to develop city-wide historic context statements and historic contexts specific to each historic district. These were used to establish periods of significance, significance justification, and sets of character-defining features for each district. An extensive-level field survey identified over 1,400 properties eligible for listing in the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources as "contributing resources" and recommended boundary revisions for many of the city's historic districts. Another critical piece of Page & Turnbull's work was the preparation of design guidelines that address the rehabilitation and modification of existing historic resources as well as guidance for infill development. Through extensive public outreach, City staff and their consultants were able to garner support from preservationists, developers, and architects, culminating in the final public hearing before the Preservation Commission in the fall of 2019. The City Council gave unanimous approval in December.

The City now has an accurate list of contributing and non-contributing historic resources and a robust set of design guidelines to manage protection of those resources during future development within our historic districts. City staff are now in the process of making the survey data available to the public through a web base platform. The Historic Districts Plans Project is featured on the city website (www.cityofsacramento.org/hdp).

As stated during the award presentation, "*The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions congratulates the Sacramento Preservation Commission for the proactive way in which it worked to create a planning tool that will benefit historic preservation in the city for years to come.*"

Bienvenidos a Placita

The friendly cluster of shops and art studios at the northwest corner of K and 24th Streets offers a kind of Midtown oasis, thanks to its layout around a central courtyard, or “placita” (“little square”).

The building's exterior and interior walls are decorated with colorful murals featuring famous artists and performers from Mexico, among them Frida Kahlo and Cantinflas.



2331 K, exterior

“Welcome to Placita MX,” states the greeting painted in the foyer off the 2331 K Street entrance: “Where we give you the opportunity to live the traditions of our beautiful and beloved Mexico.”



Cooltura, interior

The shops opening off the foyer and courtyard offer a wide range of Latin American imports as well as locally made clothing, crafts, and art works. Both new and old items are on sale at the shops called **Kulture** and **Cooltura**. Kulture, founded by Sacramento State alumni David Garcia and Cuahutemoc Vargas, first opened its doors at another Midtown location in 2015. Cooltura, owned by Nena Jimenez-Romo, features her hand-made clothing, purses, totes, and other accessories using Mexican-themed fabrics (see photo on the left).

Nena also sells vintage Mexican items and antiques collected by members of her sister's family, the Viramontes. Cooltura overlooks the Placita, around the corner from two other small shops, **Chulo Baby** (“Kids' wear with Latin flare!”) and **John S. Huerta Arte Studio**, specializing in Dia de los Muertos Art. John Huerta also painted the vibrant mural of Frida Kahlo with hummingbirds and geometric shapes on the building's west wall (shown in the photo).

Bilingual Volunteers Needed to Help with the November Elections

As of mid-August, the County was seeking volunteers who can assist voters in these languages: Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog (or another dialect of Filipino), Hindi, Korean, Japanese, Punjabi, Hmong, Mien, Laotian, Urdu, and Telugu.

If you are fluent in any of these languages and would like to volunteer, the application is available on the County website (<https://elections.saccounty.net/Pages/Work-the-Election.aspx>). There also is a number to call for more information (916-875-6100). Overall, the County has been delighted to see the level of interest from the community to participate in the upcoming election. So, kudos to you if you already have volunteered to help at one of the Vote Centers!

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Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's purpose: *The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive to improve the quality of life for others who work and live in and around Boulevard Park, and therefore in Sacramento as a whole.*

Committees

Membership: Ellen Hunt
Preservation, Planning, and Land Use: Jon Marshack

Park Beat Production Team

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Newsletter Editor: Catherine Turrill Lupi

Social Media: Sher Singh

Block Captain Coordinator: Joe Cress, (916) 698-7938
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September 2020:

Places to Go, People To See (Really & Virtually)

NOTE: As of August 24, very few live public events were listed on the City's 365 website. Check it and other websites for updates. Below are a few events, programs, and dates to remember.

Every Wednesday: Wednesdays at Winn, a new farmers' market (Winn Park, 28th and P Streets, 3 p.m.-7:30 p.m. See article on [page 6](#). Website: <http://exploremidtown.org/wednesdays-at-winn/>

Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market (8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th Street between J and K). Before you go, be sure to read the current health precaution guidelines posted on the Explore Midtown website (<http://exploremidtown.org/midtown-farmers-market/>).

Online and streamed events in Sacramento: The Sac 365 website offers information about virtual entertainment and activities (<https://www.sacramento365.com/categories/online-streaming/>).

Thu., Sep. 3: BPNA Board Meeting (6:30-8 p.m.). Because the meeting will be conducted via Zoom, attendance will be limited to Board members and invited guests.

Fri., Sep. 4: "Six Feet Apart," a free, virtual concert with singer-songwriter Darden Smith (7 p.m.). See article on [page 4](#).

Sep. 5-7: "Chalk it Up! Around the Town": volunteer chalk artists will be decorating pavements throughout the region. There also will be a 3-day live music streaming festival. See article on [page 4](#).

Sept. 9-13: 15th Annual Sac Open Studios, now in a virtual format with online artist encounters. First of two sessions; see article on [page 4](#).

Places to Go, People To See (cont.)

Sept. 10-20: Wide Open Walls: Twenty artists will be painting murals around the city. See article on [page 4](#).

Fri., Sep. 11: "Six Feet Apart," a free virtual concert with duo Mustache and Cleavage (Alexander Lewis and B Street Core Company Member, Amy Kelly; 7 p.m.). See article on [page 4](#).

Sept. 17-20: 15th Annual Sac Open Studios. See article on [page 4](#).

Thu., Sept. 24: The Sacramento Public Library hosts a drop-in virtual chat with Rochelle Arnold, County Veteran Services Officer, each month. Veterans and their family members can find out more about benefit entitlement determinations, claim development, claim filing, and case management services. For log-in instructions, go to: <https://saclibrary.evanced.info/signup/Calendar?lib=1000>

Wed., Sep. 30: Last day to participate in the U.S. 2020 Census.

... And, looking ahead to early October:

Thu., Oct. 1: BPNA Board Meeting (6:30-8 p.m.).

Mon., Oct. 5: Ballots for the Presidential General Election will start being mailed via USPS; Ballot Drop Boxes will be opening up.

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

The August 6 Board meeting was conducted using Zoom. We began with a guest presentation by Randy Singh, who is with the Department of Community Engagement (<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Economic-Development/Community-Engagement>). Formerly known as the Division of Neighborhood Services, this new department will operate with a more economic focus. It will continue to act as a grass roots level "eyes and ears" for the City administration—a conduit to City departments for neighborhood associations, small businesses, and others. An important project now underway involves financial assistance to restaurants and small businesses suffering from the current economic crises. Helping restaurants create outdoor seating is another part of that assistance. It also is involved with the City Management Academy, which should be offered again in 2021. In response to questions from the Board, Randy agreed to identify some resources for residents seeking help for homeless individuals who are challenged by mental health issues. Randy's visit was followed by Jon Marshack's report about the continuing effort to include protection for Sacramento's historic neighborhoods now that Citywide Infill Housing Development Standards have been approved by the City Council (meeting of July 28). The rest of the meeting included advance planning for the September board meeting, an exchange of ideas about content for the September issue of Park Beat, and a general discussion of issues of City and neighborhood concern.

Arts & Entertainment Events in September

The COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in the cancellation of so many events that having a few favorites still on the schedule brings us hope that our lives will be returning to normal. There will not be a neighborhood Spaghetti Dinner, Preservation Sacramento's home tours have been cancelled too, and our usual progressive dinner on National Night Out is out of the question, despite the fact that NNO has been rescheduled to the first Tuesday in October.

However, as indicated in the Events Calendar on **page 3** of this newsletter, three ever-popular September events still will be happening at the traditional times, albeit in altered formats to accommodate the limitations imposed on us by the ongoing pandemic. B Street Theatre also is hosting a virtual concert series called "Six Feet Apart," with two performances in September.

Chalk It Up! Around the Town (Sept. 5-7): Usually held at Fremont Park, the ever-popular Chalk It Up! festival will not be set at a single location this year.. Instead, it will have multiple venues over the Labor Day weekend. Volunteer chalk artists will be decorating sidewalks, parking lots, and driveways throughout the greater Sacramento region. In addition, there will be a 3-day live music streaming festival, with local artists performing from their homes and quarantine locations. Proceeds from Chalk It Up! go towards its Youth Art Grant Program, supporting K-12 classrooms and youth art programs throughout the region. For further information and a festival map, go to: <https://chalkitup.org/>

Sac Open Studios (Sept. 9-13 and 17-20): Hosted by the Verge Center for the Arts, this annual event is now in its 15th year and, for the first time, will be conducted almost entirely on line. It will be "a dynamic, artist-driven virtual experience," according to the website (<https://www.vergeart.com/open-studios/attend-sac-open-studios/>).

September 9's kick-off event (6 p.m.) will be followed by two series of virtual encounters with artists, **Sept. 10-13** and **Sept. 17-20**. There will be interactive "Conversations with Artists," various "Artist Livestreams" (showing artists in action), and different kinds of individual events hosted by participating artists. In addition, a Sac Open Studios Preview exhibition will be held at the Verge Center for the Arts from **Sept. 10-27** (162 S Street). Monies earned from art sold during the exhibition will benefit the artists and Verge. For more information, and for a free digital copy of the 60-page Sac Open Studios guidebook/magazine, go to: <https://sacopenstudios.com/>

Six Feet Apart (Sept. 4 and 11): This live on-line concert series, hosted by B Street Theatre, will also include a live question and answer session with the artists following the concerts. Singer-songwriter Darden Smith will perform on **Sept. 4**; the duo called "Mustache and Cleavage" (Alexander Lewis and B Street Core Company member Amy Kelly) will perform on **Sept. 11**. Each concert starts at 7 p.m. Both concerts are free, but advance registration is required. For more information, go to: <https://bstreettheatre.org/six-feet-apart/>

Wide Open Walls (Sept. 10-20): Now in its fifth year, this famous mural festival will showcase the skills of twenty artists from the Sacramento region and Bay Area. Because of the pandemic, there will be no street parties or concerts to celebrate WOW this year. However, there will be free open-air mural tours (on foot, scooters, and bikes) led by members of WOW's board of directors. For more information, go to: <https://www.wideopenwalls.com/>

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First Call, Candidates for the 2021 Board of Directors

Every autumn the BPNA solicits members in good standing (annual dues paid) to serve on the following year's Board of Directors, which is replenished annually. Once a slate is formed with a minimum of seven individuals, the names of all of the declared candidates are announced in November or December. The candidates' personal statements are printed in that month's issue of Park Beat, and voting takes place at the general membership meeting in January.

Being a member of the BPNA board is a great way to serve the community while also learning more about the issues that affect the quality of life of everyone in the neighborhood. Board meetings are held once a month and each session lasts about an hour and a half. In collaboration with other BPNA members, the seven directors coordinate the four public events sponsored by the association each year—the general membership meeting in January, the progressive dinner for National Night Out in August, the Spaghetti Dinner in September, and the Holiday Party in December. The neighborhood yard sale, usually held every other year, also is coordinated by the officers. Finally, the directors are the leading contributors to Park Beat, although submissions and suggestions from other BPNA members always are welcome.

If you are interested in serving on the BPNA Board and have questions about it, please contact any current Board member (their names are listed on **page 3** of the newsletter).

“What Style Is My House?” Part 2: Queen Anne

by Jon Marshack

Residents of northern Midtown are fortunate to live among a variety of architectural house styles, which together create a rich heritage. Have you ever wondered about the style of your house? This is the second article in a series that explores house styles in the Boulevard Park and New Washington School neighborhoods. In this article we consider one of the oldest house styles in these two historic districts, **Queen Anne**. Queen Anne is one of the Victorian house styles (occurring during the reign of Queen Victoria of Great Britain, 1837–1901). In northern California, the style was popular from the 1880s to 1900.



2330 H Street (*built in 1893*)

Many of the Queen Anne and other Victorian homes of north Midtown were built in response to the construction of a new horse-drawn streetcar line in 1871. It brought visitors up from the downtown Central Pacific passenger depot on Front Street, traveling eastward along H Street to the fairgrounds and racetrack at Agricultural Park, and eventually terminating at East Park (renamed McKinley Park in 1902). The line was electrified in the 1890s. Many Queen Anne homes are still found along H and I Streets. In contrast to the Italianate style featured in my last house styles column (see the August issue of Park Beat), no Queen Anne homes were moved into the new Wright & Kimbrough development that replaced Agricultural Park after 1904. The three H Street houses shown in the photos were built to the east of the old racetrack, just outside the original Boulevard Park subdivision.

This is decidedly the most exuberant house style of the Victorian era. Queen Anne houses boast asymmetrical façades with steeply pitched roofs of irregular shape, usually with one or two dominant front-facing gables.

Most examples sport a variety of siding treatments, including patterned and fish-scale shingles, plus plaster or wood exterior decoration, sometimes with floral or sunburst motifs. Cutaway bay windows are common, with decorative brackets supporting the gabled roof above, as are turned porch posts and spindle work. Stained and leaded glass windows in diverse shapes are found on many Queen Anne homes. More elaborate Queen Annes incorporate towers into their designs; these can be square, round, or octagonal in cross-section. Porches are normally one-story in height and either extend partially or fully across the façade; some may even wrap around one or both sides of the house. Having the most “gingerbread” of any Victorian style, Queen Anne houses offer many treats to the eye.

2324-26 H Street (*built in 1890*)



2405 H Street (*built in ca. 1896*)

The Trees of Midtown: The Siberian Elm



Lacking the spectacular beauty of the more familiar American and European elms, the Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*) is only occasionally planted along our Sacramento city streets (the tree in the photo is on “D” Street between 19th and 20th). This small to medium sized tree is native to central Asia, eastern Siberia, Mongolia, and other areas in that part of the world. Resistant to drought and cold, able to thrive in poor soil, the Siberian Elm is rugged enough to be the last tree species typically encountered in Central Asia’s semi-arid desert regions. It also has been imported to other countries. In Italy, Siberian elms were used as a support system for grape vines until the 1950s. In Great Britain, the tree was most often used as a bonsai subject. In our country, the Siberian Elm’s rapid growth and tolerance for drought led to its being planted across the prairies after the Dust Bowl disasters, until the tree’s shortcomings became evident. Among other things, it is short-lived, vulnerable to frost damage, and has a tendency to become invasive.

Because this species is resistant to Dutch elm disease, it has been hybridized in the United States in an effort to create robust elm trees with the look of the more desirable varieties but with a high disease resistance. We are watching these new clones as they grow, hoping they will be successful and will provide an alternative to our endangered elm trees.

Wednesdays at Winn

This new certified farmers' market, an afternoon event, was launched on August 19. It will be held each Wednesday from 3-7:30 p.m. from March until November. As described in an announcement from the Midtown Association, the market features open-air booths offering organic produce, flowers, and grocery items. There also are prepared foods, food trucks, and live acoustic music. Bike parking is available onsite (be sure to bring a lock!).

Winn Park is located at the corner of P and 28th Streets and features the handsome and historic Winn Park building. Constructed in 1937, this Moderne-style building was originally an emergency relay station housing a 24-hour dispatch center for the Sacramento Fire Department. Calls from the publicly accessible fire alarm boxes that were once spread throughout the City were transmitted to the Winn Park building and then relayed to the appropriate fire stations. After the last of the fire alarm boxes were removed in the early 2000's, the relay station no longer had a purpose and was abandoned. The building has been under renovation for the past several months in preparation for different uses. Proceeds from the Wednesday market will help support this project as well as improvements to the park as a whole. For more information, go to the website: <http://exploremidtown.org/wednesdays-at-winn/>

Self-Directed Walking Tours

The Sacramento Old City Association, now called Preservation Sacramento, started sponsoring historic home tours in 1974, two years after the organization was founded. Originally held in the spring, the tours were moved to the month of September in 1980 and have been scheduled then ever since, except on the rare occasion when no tour was offered. 2020 is one of those years. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the historic home tour has been canceled. However, residents interested in going on their own walking or bicycling tours around the city have other options.

If you have a smartphone or similar digital device, you can download the "Historic Walking Tour App" developed by Sacramento Heritage, Inc. As of this writing, six tours are offered. They cover the following locations: Capitol Area, City Hall Area, the J & K Street Commercial Corridors, the Midtown/J Street Streetcar Tour, Poverty Ridge, and Oak Park. More tours should be added to the app in the future. For more information, go to: <https://www.sacramentoheritage.org/walking-tours>

If you prefer an old-school format, and would to explore our own neighborhood, take a look at the flyer developed by BPNA members back in 1994, "Boulevard Park: A Walking Tour." Individual house entries from this flyer were often reprinted in past issues of *Park Beat*. We plan to update and expand the flyer in the future. For the moment, a PDF of the original version can be found in the newsletter file on the BPNA website (<https://www.boulevardpark.org/>).

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