

May 16, 2025

The Honorable City Council
The City of Los Angeles
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attn: Budget & Finance Committee

[Katy Yaroslavsky](#), Council Member - Council District 5 (Committee Chair)

[Bob Blumenfield](#), Council Member - Council District 3

[Heather Hutt](#), Council Member - Council District 10

[Tim McOsker](#), Council Member - Council District 15

[Eunisses Hernandez](#), Council Member - Council District 1

Subject: AIA Los Angeles Strongly Supports Sustained Funding for Hollyhock House, Barnsdall Park, and Department of Cultural Affairs – [COUNCIL FILE 25-0600](#)

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA LA), representing over 4,500 architects, designers, emerging professionals, and students, we are writing **to express our strong support for the continued and adequate funding of Hollyhock House and Barnsdall Art Park in the City of Los Angeles's 2025-2026 budget.** We urge you to oppose the proposed budget cuts to the Department of Cultural Affairs, which would have a devastating impact on this invaluable cultural resource.

AIA Los Angeles, as a leading voice for architects and the built environment in the region, recognizes Hollyhock House as an architectural masterpiece of global significance. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, it represents a pivotal moment in the development of California Modernism and is a source of immense pride for our city. Its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage site underscores its importance not only to Los Angeles but to the world.

The proposed budget cuts, which would eliminate three of the four full-time staff positions at Hollyhock House, would force the closure of public tours. This would not only deny public access to this irreplaceable cultural and educational resource but also jeopardize the city's commitment to preserving its architectural legacy. As advocates for responsible stewardship of

the built environment, AIA Los Angeles is deeply concerned about the potential loss of this landmark.

Beyond Hollyhock House, Barnsdall Art Park is a vital community hub providing all Angelenos access to arts and culture. The proposed cuts would drastically reduce programming at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and Barnsdall Gallery Theatre. Furthermore, eliminating positions at Barnsdall Arts Center and Barnsdall Junior Arts Center would severely diminish the low-cost fine art education classes that have enriched the lives of thousands of local children and adults for over 50 years. AIA Los Angeles believes that access to arts education is crucial for a thriving and equitable city.

Los Angeles is preparing to host the world for the upcoming World Cup and the 2028 Olympics & Paralympics. This is a time to invest in and protect our cultural treasures, not dismantle them. We ask you to consider the long-term consequences of these cuts and their impact on our city's cultural identity and the well-being of our communities.

AIA Los Angeles strongly urges you to vote against these proposed cuts and ensure that Barnsdall Art Park and Hollyhock House receive the funding they need to continue serving as invaluable assets to the City of Los Angeles.

Please contact Will Wright – Director, Government & Public Affairs, at will@aialosangeles.org or at (213) 639-0764 for deeper coordination.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chava Danielson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chava Danielson, AIA
2025 President, AIA Los Angeles