

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2009, the City of Los Angeles Board of Referred Powers conducted a hearing on the proposed amendment to the Autry National Center's Lease with the City of Los Angeles for the Griffith Park property;

WHEREAS, approval of the requested amendment to the Lease is necessary to permit the Autry to move forward with a proposed Griffith Park Improvement Project;

WHEREAS, Councilmember Jose Huizar requested that the Board of Referred Powers impose a condition on the amendment to the Lease requiring the Autry to enter into a legally binding commitment to fund in the future the museum at the Southwest facility in Mt. Washington and to make other commitments to the facility and the collection;

WHEREAS, the Autry representatives made it clear to the Board of Referred Powers that the Autry could not agree to any provision in the amendment to the Lease requiring the Autry to make any commitments, financial or otherwise, to the Southwest facilities and the collection;

WHEREAS, the Board of Referred Powers continued its consideration of the proposed Lease amendment and requested that the Autry negotiate with Councilman Huizar a legally binding commitment to prepare a master plan for the Southwest facility, to keep open the museum at the Southwest facility, to maintain exhibitions at the Southwest facility, and other matters;

WHEREAS, since merging with the Southwest in 2003, the Autry undertook an extensive effort to save the deteriorating Southwest facilities and collection and has spent millions on repairs and rehabilitation of the Southwest facilities and preserving the collection;

WHEREAS, in September 2007, the Autry announced with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Councilmember Huizar a decade-long series of initiatives to be undertaken voluntarily by the Autry with respect to the preservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of the Southwest facilities and the collection;

WHEREAS, since September 2007, in keeping with the series of initiatives, the Autry has expended and continues to expend substantial funds on the Southwest facility and the collection, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to the stewardship of the Southwest facilities and the collection;

WHEREAS, the Autry is extremely proud of its Griffith Park Improvement Project that would elevate the Autry museum in Griffith Park into a leading national museum and a premier Los Angeles cultural destination;

WHEREAS, the Autry is appreciative of the broad support for the Griffith Park Improvement Project that the Autry has received from virtually every Native American group, labor, the art and museum community, the Los Angeles Conservancy, the Chamber of Commerce, VICA and from many other organizations and community members;

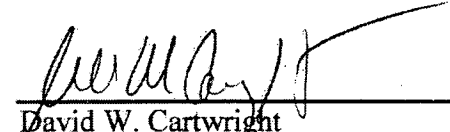
WHEREAS, the Trustees have determined that, given a number of factors including the current economic environment, there is no realistic possibility of raising sufficient funds for operating the Southwest facilities in Mt. Washington as a museum in the manner requested by Councilmember Huizar and the Board of Referred Powers; and

WHEREAS, the Autry is a nonprofit corporation, and its Trustees owe a fiduciary obligation to ensure that the Autry does not make any contractual commitments, financial or otherwise, which would require the Autry to expend funds that it cannot guarantee can be raised and where such commitments would constrain the Autry's ability to preserve and enhance all of its assets, which it holds in charitable trust.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The Autry shall not agree to any condition or requirement imposed by the City of Los Angeles or any other third party on the Griffith Park Improvement Project or the amendment to the Lease, which requires the Autry to make any commitments, financial or otherwise, with respect to the Southwest facilities and collection in Mt. Washington.

Dated and agreed to this  
15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2009

  
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David W. Cartwright  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

July 24, 2009

The Honorable Janice Hahn  
The Honorable Bernard Parks  
The Honorable Bill Rosendahl  
The Honorable Ed Reyes  
The Honorable Tony Cardenas  
Board of Referred Powers  
City of Los Angeles  
City Hall  
200 N Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Councilmembers:

I am writing in follow-up to the Board of Referred Powers hearing on June 30 at which Councilman Jose Huizar requested that we make certain financial and other commitments to the Southwest Museum facilities in Mt. Washington as part of the Board of Referred Powers' consideration of approval of our proposed expansion in Griffith Park.

On July 15, the Board of Trustees of the Autry National Center met and considered the request of Councilman Huizar. Councilman Huizar attended that meeting, and our Board of Trustees had an engaged discussion with him regarding the issues. Following that discussion, our Trustees voted unanimously to reject any condition or requirement imposing commitments, financial or otherwise, with respect to the Southwest Museum facilities in Mt. Washington. A copy of the Board of Trustees resolution is attached. The Autry cannot agree to any such commitment or condition.

The Board of Trustees believes strongly that as a non-profit organization, we have fiduciary obligations that do not permit us to make the sort of future financial commitments to Mt. Washington that have been requested of us. We cannot make future commitments to the City based on funds or funding sources that we know, from direct experience, do not currently exist and may not materialize in the future. Unfortunately, as time has shown us, there is a very limited donor base interested in the Southwest facilities. As such, we cannot agree to the City's request, as expressed by Councilman Huizar.

Since merging with the Southwest Museum in 2003, the Autry has spent millions of dollars to preserve the buildings and collection in Mt. Washington. These assets were on the verge of ruin. The Autry has saved the Southwest Museum facilities and the collection. In 2007, the Autry announced with Mayor Villaraigosa and Councilman Huizar a series of initiatives with respect to the Southwest Museum facilities in Mt. Washington. Many of those initiatives have been completed. More money has been spent by the Autry National Center on the Southwest Museum facilities and collection than was spent in the previous 30 years.

Unfortunately, there has been little appreciation for the fundraising efforts that our Trustees have undertaken or the tremendous work our staff has already completed at the Mt. Washington facility. Our hard work to secure millions of dollars in funding to save the

facilities and the collection has been met with never ending demands for more, and inappropriate attacks on the Autry. This situation is no longer acceptable.

The expansion in Griffith Park is important for the Autry National Center. But we will not put at risk the financial health of the Autry National Center to secure approval of that Griffith Park project. The Griffith Park expansion project would provide much needed and expanded facilities for the curation, storage and display of much of the Autry's collection, including many items from the Southwest collection. Moreover, the ability of this expanded Griffith Park facility to draw more attendance and programs would create new revenue growth opportunities for the Autry National Center. Without the expanded opportunities for enhanced revenue and donations associated with the Griffith Park expansion, it is simply not possible to maintain the existing programs at Mt. Washington or take on new challenges at the Mt. Washington site.

In addition to the rehabilitation efforts already made to the Mt. Washington facilities, we cannot lose sight of the long-term commitments the Autry has made to the many Native American tribes and cultural representatives with whom we share patrimony of the Southwest collection in a very real sense. At our last board meeting, one of our Native American Trustees reiterated to Councilman Huizar that the Native American community's priority is the professional stewardship, protection and exhibition of the collection, and that it be located where that can best be achieved.

The Autry is extremely proud of our \$175 million Griffith Park project that will elevate the current museum in Griffith Park into a leading national museum and a premier Los Angeles cultural destination. This project is supported by virtually every Native American group, and has broad support from labor, the art and museum community, the Conservancy, the Chamber, VICA and many others. Importantly, the new Griffith Park facility will also serve as a much-needed gathering place for Native peoples in the Los Angeles community. The Native American voice was significant in the Autry's design and planning process, and dozens of Native American tribes are standing with the Autry in support of the Griffith Park project.

Should the Board of Referred Powers insist on a legally binding condition for the Southwest facilities in Mt. Washington in connection with the Autry's project in Griffith Park, we will have no choice but to abandon the expansion plan. Shelving a project of this importance to the cultural fabric of Los Angeles would be a significant loss for the City, a loss of construction jobs, as well as positions within an expanded museum.

It is important to note that the delays and costs already imposed by the City of Los Angeles process have put the Griffith Park project at great risk. In addition, even if the Board of Referred Powers approves the amendment to the Lease, the Autry faces many months of additional hearings with respect to the planning approvals required for the Griffith Park project. Further, we face the prospect of almost certain litigation challenging the City's approvals. These added delays and costs continue to weigh heavily on the Autry and our core mission during very difficult economic times. We need your whole-hearted support if we are to have any realistic opportunity to make this project work in Griffith Park.

The Autry is proud of its place in Los Angeles. We are proud to have saved the Southwest Museum facilities in Mt. Washington and, most importantly, the collection. We believe strongly in the shared vision we've achieved for Griffith Park.

We respectfully request that you schedule a hearing of the Board of Referred Powers as soon as possible to make your decision. The issues are the approval of the EIR and the lease amendment. We respectfully request a final decision so that we may move on in planning our future. What that future holds will be decided by the Autry, our Trustees, our donors and the people who have worked so hard to make the Autry National Center a great institution.

Best,

John Gray  
President

Cc: The Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa  
The Honorable Tom LaBonge  
The Honorable Eric Garcetti  
Mr. John Mukri  
George J. Mihalsten, Esq.