Background:
In the Fall of 2012 Plum Architects and Louisa Van Leer Design collaborated to assist the
Friends of the Southwest Museum in preparing three conceptual designs with cost estimates
to help reimagine what the historic Southwest Museum could be. The fruits of these labors
were presented to Council Member Ed Reyes and a variety of City Planners, Architectural Historians,
Community Leaders during several Working Group Sessions sponsored by Council District 1 and
the City of Los Angeles in the Fall of 2013. The purpose of the Working Group Sessions was to
bring all the parties to the table to help restart the dialogue concerning the fate of Southwest Museum,
which is threatened with closure if further action is not taken. The Autry Museum is currently in control
of the Southwest Museum Facility and the Casa de Adobe Facility as well as the extensive collection of
museum artifacts. At the time of this printing it is not yet clear what the fate of the Museum will be.

Design Approach
Our design approach was to fully explore the myriad of options to rehabilitate the existing
Southwest Museum with special emphasis placed on utilizing all corners of the existing Historic Register
Building, including the Caracol and Torrance Towers. June 2013
Southwest Museum property line

Existing Metro Tracks

Extend Hopi trail to reach a new overlook pavilion/interpretive structure

Upgrade Amphitheater

New accessible walkways

Middle Plaza +612'

Main Plaza +593'

South Terrace with new outdoor dining

Vehicular access drive

Upgrade existing Hopi Trail

Restripe Marmion Way parking to include 80+ new parking spaces and sidewalks

Explore adding pedestrian tunnel with interpretive displays under Metro tracks

Restore Casa de Adobe

Regrade & expand parking lot to 100 cars

Regrade & reconfigure upper drive including new drop off lane

Service Driveway

Restore, expand & modernize the Southwest Museum

Upgrade existing tunnel & restore Dioramas

Mayan tunnel entry

Improve pedestrian experience, connect to bike paths & add Arroyo walking tour wayfinding

SW Museum Station
EXISTING BUILDING
SOUTHWEST MUSEUM REHABILITATION: CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
1ST FLOOR
(basement not shown)

GALLERY SQUARE FOOTAGE:
9,875 SF Existing
13,998 SF Proposed Option A

LEGEND:

GALLERY PROGRAM
CIRCULATION & CORE FUNCTIONS
NON-GALLERY PROGRAM
ADMIN/SUPPORT PROGRAMS
BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN NEW & REMODEL CONSTRUCTION

PLUM | architects
LOUISA VAN LEER DESIGN

SOUTHWEST MUSEUM REHABILITATION: CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

2ND FLOOR

3RD FLOOR
(4th floor similar)
1ST FLOOR
(basement not shown)

GALLERY SQUARE FOOTAGE:
9,875 SF Existing
17,495 SF Proposed Option B

LEGEND:

GALLERY PROGRAM
CIRCULATION & CORE FUNCTIONS
NON-GALLERY PROGRAM
ADMIN/SUPPORT PROGRAMS
BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN NEW & REMODEL CONSTRUCTION

PLUM architects
LOUISA VAN LEER DESIGN

SOUTHWEST MUSEUM REHABILITATION: CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

OPTION B
OPTION B:
SKETCH VIEW FROM THE NORTH

SOUTHWEST MUSEUM REHABILITATION: CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
OPTION A-1
SKETCH VIEW OF NEW MIDDLE ENTRY PLAZA

SOUTHWEST MUSEUM REHABILITATION: CONCEPTUAL DESIGN