



Press Release

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La Puente Partners with Los Angeles Historic Theatre Foundation to Save the Star

La Puente, California – The historic Star Theater was razed this week to make way for a new 22 unit townhome development in the City's downtown business district. The demolition of the Star Theater brings an end to the iconic movie house that has been part of the City and the San Gabriel Valley since its construction in 1947.

With the demolition of the theater structure the City saw an opportunity to partner with the Los Angeles Historic Theatre Foundation to preserve the symbolic star that has rested on top of the unique multi-pole support structure for over 70 years.

Said La Puente Mayor Valerie Munoz, speaking for the City Council: "We very much cherish our community's past while also embracing opportunities to move our City forward to revitalize the downtown and bring new housing opportunities and economic development to our City. Partnerships help to make our community better and the partnership forged with the Los Angeles Historic Theatre Foundation to work collaboratively in saving the star from demolition is a win-win for everyone".

The Foundation will be working with the City to find a permanent home for the star. Said Board President Tiffany Nitsche, "While losing the historic Star Theater to demolition this week was not our ideal outcome, we are thrilled to have partnered with the City of La Puente to secure a future for the iconic neon star sign. We very much look forward to collaborating with the community and City to find its new home in La Puente and complete an extensive restoration. We can't bring the theater back, but we can all come together to celebrate the long history and the star that will soon light up again."

As part of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the new housing project, the developer has prepared a report of the historic theater based on the Historic American Building Survey standards and is currently on file with the La Puente County Library. Although not required by the EIR, the City plans to submit the report to the Historic American Buildings Survey maintained by the National Park Service and the Library of Congress. By doing so, the docu-

mented architectural significance of the Star Theater will be accessible to future generations in perpetuity.

For questions or to learn more about the City of La Puente contact City Hall at (626) 855-1500.

About the Los Angeles Historic Theatre Foundation

The Los Angeles Historic Theatre Foundation (LAHTF) is a 501(c)3 membership and volunteer-driven organization formed in 1988 to protect, preserve, restore, and sustain the operation of historic theatres throughout Los Angeles County by advocacy and activism. LAHTF aims to present a thoughtfully curated variety of quality film and performing arts events, advance arts and preservation education, and support communities interested in reviving historic theatres as catalysts for the arts, entertainment, new businesses, and mixed-use. For further information about LAHTF, visit www.lahtf.org.

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