

Los Feliz Ledger

Docent Led Tours Have Resumed after Hollyhock House Valentine's Reopening Celebration

By Kathy McDonald

<http://www.losfelizledger.com/article/hollyhock-house-reopens-and-is-partying-all-night-through-valentines-day/>

Los Feliz Ledger Says:



EAST HOLLYWOOD—Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, joined by City Councilmembers Mitch O’Farrell and Tom LaBonge and Linda Dishman—executive director of the Los Angeles Conservancy—reintroduced the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house to nearly 600 guests on a balmy February Friday night, after 4 1/2 years of seismic repairs, restoration work and an almost three year closure.

“This is what history feels like, what history looks like,” said Garcetti in his opening remarks, reminding the crowd of the Hollyhock House’s “only-in-Hollywood-story with its tumultuous ups-and-downs.”

The project was a labor of love for all involved, said the mayor and represented the cooperative efforts of several city departments including Parks & Recreation, Cultural Affairs, the Bureau of Engineering and local businesses and the community.

Two million of city funds were utilized in the endeavor that reclaimed the house and, “saved it for the city, the country and humanity,” said Garcetti. He also recalled a personal connection to the house and Olive Hill. One of his earliest decision as a councilmember was to select whether the hill’s trees—replanted in 2001—should be olive fruit bearing or not. (The city opted for non-fruit bearing trees, Garcetti wistfully recalled.)

“Nearly 100 years later, art and culture live on,” said Garcetti. “We want every Angeleno to know it’s their home.”

Few could recall when the last time the city’s mayor had visited the house, which came back under the city’s oversight during former mayor Tom Bradley’s term. Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell pointed out that the house is now, “ADA compliant and more accessible than ever before.”

Tour-goers gathered as early as 2 p.m. for the promise of the re-opening Feb. 12th. The line at 5 p.m. was more than an estimated 400 strong. A Taliesin-red Bentley and a photo-cut out of the master architect greeted guests in the motor court, which is the next restoration project on Olive Hill.

Throughout February self-guided tours were offered. In March docent-led tours returned.

“This old house has never looked better,” said curator Jeffrey Herr who thanked the many who worked so hard throughout the project and acknowledged his predecessor Virginia Kazor. He added: “It’s time to celebrate.”

Hollyhock House, 4800 Hollywood Blvd., (323) 644-6269, barnsdall.org/visit/hollyhock-house