

HRB Meeting of March 28, 2024

First Name	Last Name	Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number	Position	I would like to speak on the item during public testimony.	Comments	Attachments
Non-Agenda Comment							
Clint	Daniels	3/28/2024	Non-Agenda Comment			<p>Today, the San Diego Union Tribune highlighted the Museum of Us and Friends of Friendship Park's efforts to save significant artwork and political messages along the border fence between Mexico and the United States, which affects people in San Diego, Tijuana, and beyond.</p> <p>(https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/border-baja-california/story/2024-03-21/mexico-border-wall-friendship-park-murals-saved-museum). These two groups plan to preserve these murals, much like sections of the Berlin Wall were saved after the Cold War. However, unlike the Berlin Wall this wall is set to be rebuilt.</p> <p>Their dedication will safeguard these murals and the political speech they represent for generations to come. Situated within San Diego, this fence stands as a testament to our shared history and future endeavors. Thus, I extend my gratitude to the Museum of Us and Friends of Friendship Park for their invaluable work in safeguarding this poignant heritage. I urge this board to consider the profound contrast between preserving individual homes in Mission Hills today and the preservation of collective memories and narratives. Embracing a more proactive stance in safeguarding the ideas, events, and artifacts that shape our collective identity as citizens would be a commendable shift, one that transcends mere fiscal incentives for affluent homeowners.</p>	<p>https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/border-baja-california/story/2024-03-21/mexico-border-wall-friendship-park-murals-saved-museum</p>
ITEM 3							
Matt	Brand	3/28/2024	3	In Support of Item		<p>I am writing with enthusiastic support for officially designating 3232 Dove Street in San Diego (92103) for historical designation. Deborah's House as many affectionately refer to it is indeed a special property with a long and important history most prominently thanks to its primary occupant and wellness pioneer and icon Deborah Szekely who famously used the home as meeting place across a broad spectrum of important societal issues around community, wellness and philanthropy. Well-known participants of her meetings-of-the-minds gatherings over the decades were folks like Theodor ("Dr. Seuss") Geisel, Joe Biden and many of the world's top wellness figures. Viewing this potential designation from HRB's Criterion B, perhaps Deborah's most important contribution in my humble opinion is her co-founding and operating the world renown Rancho La Puerta health resort in 1940. This story is beautifully captured here: https://rancholapuerta.com/legacy-mission/founders-story</p> <p>Bordering the edge of San Diego in Tecate, Mexico, Rancho La Puerta was the pioneer and has been far and away the leader in the health retreat space globally. Many of today's leading institutions in the wellness space such as Canyon Ranch, The Ashram in Calabasas, Aro Ha Wellness Retreat Center in New Zealand, and The Ranch Malibu can trace their roots back to the model created by Deborah and Rancho La Puerta. It is not a stretch to say that Deborah's work, either directly or via its ripple effects or the Ranch, has impacted millions of lives in a whole variety of ways mental, physical, emotional, spiritual and in terms of health and longevity.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	<p>https://rancholapuerta.com/legacy-mission/founders-story</p>

Ann	Kilrain	3/28/2024	3	In Support of Item	No	Deborah Szekely is a true woman pioneer, well ahead of her time in promoting health, wellness and mindfulness. She has made significant and enduring contributions to our city and state's reputation of promoting healthy lifestyles and activities. Her long time residence should be recognized accordingly, nicely complementing the many other tourist and neighborhood attractions in the area, such as the Spruce St, Quince St and First Avenue Bridges and the many national registry and local HRB recognized properties nearby. Deborah Szekely is a true San Diego treasure, and recognizing the location where she lived will help secure her place in SD history.
Clint	Daniels	3/28/2024	3	In Support of Item	No	I support staff recommendation to not designate the site historic.

ITEM 4

Clint	Daniels	3/28/2024	4	In Opposition of item	No	The site should not be designated historic due the alterations of the property. The definition of what does or does not constitute a significant alteration is subjective and arbitrary.
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ITEM 5

Clint	Daniels	3/28/2024	5	In Opposition of item	No	The site should not be designated historic due the alterations of the property. The definition of what does or does not constitute a significant alteration is subjective and arbitrary.
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ITEM 7

Clint	Daniels	3/28/2024	7	In Opposition of item		<p>Within the City of San Diego, there are 122 recognized "Masters" comprising architects, designers, and builders. The city's data indicates that 97 percent of these influential figures in shaping our built environment are men, leaving only a meager representation of 4 women among the 122 identified "Masters." Some may argue that this gender imbalance merely reflects historical biases favoring men, a similar argument related to race is often used by this board to downplay uncomfortable truths like redlining and restrictive covenants. However, such reasoning is merely an excuse. Furthermore, it's troubling to note that half of the acknowledged "Master" women are recognized under the shadow of their husbands—such as Florence (and Herbert) Palmer and Corinne (and Wayne) McAllister. Even in this item, the recognized master builder's wife, Helen, is recognized as just an afterthought in the staff report even though she likely played a significant role in the family business. While it's undeniable that history has favored men over women, this board has yet to take meaningful action to rectify this disparity by actively identifying and celebrating the contributions of women to our city's development. If the pool of historical women contributors truly is small, the city could and should make efforts to recognize contemporary women "Masters." Continuing to designate properties solely based on Criterion D perpetuates the false narrative that women played a lesser role in shaping San Diego's history compared to their male counterparts. It's not just about perpetuating this false truth; it's galling that the city has officially codified a list of men as the primary contributors deserving preservation and tax incentives. This is deeply concerning. Until this board prioritizes equity, we risk sending a damaging message to women and girls that their contributions remain unnoticed and undervalued. Instead of rushing to designate this property today, let's seize this moment as an opportunity to actively seek out and elevate the stories of all individuals who have contributed to our community, regardless of gender. It's time to ensure that our city's history reflects the diverse array of voices and experiences that have shaped it.</p>
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