# **Appendix FEIR-2**

Memorandum Regarding Historical Resources Technical Report



### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Yanet Martinez, Senior Landscape Designer & Facility Planning Associate, PLA, ASLA at Los Angeles County Museum of Art FROM: Teresa Grimes, Principal Architectural Historian at GPA Consulting

DATE: July 11, 2018

RE: Historical Resources Technical Report LACMA Building for the Permanent Collection

#### Introduction

In September 2017, GPA completed a Historical Resource Technical Report (HRTR) for the LACMA Building for the Permanent Collection (the Project). The HRTR is an appendix to the Draft Environmental Impact Report prepared for the Project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Project involves the construction of two new buildings referred to as the Museum Building and Ogden Parking Structure. This memorandum was requested to address changes in the design of the Museum Building subsequent to the publication of the DEIR.

## Changes to the Project

The Project includes an approximately 347,500 gross square foot Museum Building, which is a reduction of 40,000 square feet as compared to the Museum Building analyzed in the Draft EIR. The Museum Building would continue to be located on LACMA East and the property on the southeast corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Spaulding Avenue (Spaulding Lot), with a portion spanning Wilshire Boulevard. The Museum Building is still proposed to consist of seven semi-transparent Pavilions that would support an elevated, continuous, transparent main gallery level extending over Wilshire Boulevard to the Spaulding Lot in the same general location as presented in the Draft EIR; although the shape and location of each Pavilion within the Museum Building has changed slightly (revised Conceptual Site Plan attached), and the span over Wilshire Boulevard has moved slightly to the east. While the Project is expected to begin construction during the third or fourth quarter of 2019, a year after what was originally projected, the Project is still anticipated to be completed in 2023.

## Analysis of Project Impacts

The HRTR concluded that the four existing buildings on the Project site, including the Ahmanson Building, the Hammer Building, the Art of Americas Building, and the Bing Center were not historical resources defined by CEQA.

The HRTR analyzed direct impacts on two potential historical resources in the study area, the Wilshire Boulevard street lights and the Pavilion for Japanese Art. The HRTR acknowledged that two street lights would be removed, stored, and reinstalled at new locations deemed appropriate by the City's Bureau of Street Lighting. This treatment was found to have a less than significant impact. Due to the slight shift of the Museum Building to the east, three street lights would be removed. The same treatment to a third street light would have a less than significant impact for the same reasons explained in the HRTR. The removal of three street lights instead of



two would not be a perceptible alteration to such a large collection that extends along Wilshire Boulevard from Fairfax to Highland Avenues. Individual street lights in the collection have already been moved so they are no longer evenly spaced. Furthermore, as the street lights are so thin in profile and share the public space with a variety of street trees, they do not have a strong visual presence. Although the Project would have a less than significant impact on the Pavilion for Japanese Art, mitigation measures were recommended. The changes to the design of the Museum Building would not involve additional alterations to the Pavilion for Japanese Art that were not already considered. Thus, the changes to the design of the Museum Building would not increase the impacts on the Wilshire Boulevard street lights or the Pavilion for Japanese Art.

Indirect impacts on historical resources in the study area were also analyzed in the HRTR. These included one known historical resource, the Miracle Mile HPOZ; two potential historical resources, the buildings at 5850 and 5950 Wilshire Boulevard; and one presumptive historical resource, the Observation Pit. The HRTR concluded that the impact would be less than significant. These historical resources are not a part of the Project. The changes to the design of the Museum Building would not alter the conclusions in the HRTR, because the Museum Building would be reduced in size. Thus, the impact on these historical resources would still be less than significant.

