

To:

Traci Park, Councilmember, Council District 11
Members of the Los Angeles City Council
Karen Bass, Mayor of the City of Los Angeles

From:

Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC)

Subject: Immediate Action to Preserve, Restore, and Support Cultural Vitality of Venice Beach Boardwalk

Dear Councilmember Park, Members of the City Council, and Mayor Bass:

The Venice Neighborhood Council writes to you on behalf of the many residents, stakeholders, business owners, longtime visitors, and artists who care deeply about the unique cultural identity of our community. As stewards of Venice — a place that is internationally recognized as a symbol of creativity, freedom, diversity, artistic expression, and distinctive public-space culture — we urge you to take immediate and decisive action to preserve the heart and soul of what makes Venice Beach globally beloved: our Boardwalk, its historic Pagodas, and the vibrant community of street performers who breathe life into our public spaces.

The Boardwalk, and in particular the historical “Pagodas” — hexagonal pergolas first constructed in the 1930s under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) — provide iconic architectural character that has defined Venice for generations. As documented by VNC and longstanding community groups, these structures are in dire need of repair, and many have been fenced off and effectively taken out of public use.

Further, recent enforcement and cleanup sweeps along the Boardwalk have disrupted the cultural life of Venice — displacing street performers and confiscating performance-related property. Such actions undermine the long-standing tradition of public art, music, performance, and free expression that have made Venice Beach a world-renowned destination for decades. The vibrancy of street artists and performers not only enriches community life, but also supports local businesses, draws tourism, and reflects Venice’s identity as a place where art and community intersect.

With major global events — including the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles — on the horizon, pressures and visitor demand on our infrastructure and public spaces will only intensify.

As such, the VNC passed the below motion on [date] by a vote of [vote count].

Thank you for your consideration. We welcome the opportunity to meet with your offices, City agencies, and community stakeholders to discuss how to move forward promptly and thoughtfully.

Sincerely,

Brian Averill

President, Venice Neighborhood Council

MOTION: The Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) respectfully communicates to our Councilmember Traci Park (CD-11), the Los Angeles City Council, and Mayor Karen Bass that Venice is not only a neighborhood community in Los Angeles — it is an internationally recognized symbol of creativity, freedom, diversity, and unique public-space culture. The Boardwalk, its historic Pagodas, its street performers, and its distinctive social fabric are integral to that identity. As the City prepares for major events and rising tourism, there is a profound opportunity — and responsibility — to preserve what makes Venice irreplaceable.

Therefore, the VNC requests that the City:

- Immediately prioritize the restoration and reopening of the historic Pagodas along Ocean Front Walk — providing funding, permits, and resources via the relevant city agencies (e.g., Department of Recreation & Parks, Bureau of Street Services, Office of Historic Resources) to refurbish, repair, or, where necessary, rebuild the Pagodas to original or appropriate historically sensitive design standards.
- Undertake formal designation of the Pagodas as a protected historic and cultural resource (e.g., Historic-Cultural Monument status), to safeguard them against demolition or neglect.
- Develop and implement a Boardwalk cultural preservation plan that supports street performers, buskers, and other independent artists — recognizing their role in Venice's character and tourism appeal. This should include a transparent, fair, and culturally sensitive enforcement and permitting framework that allows performers to continue contributing to the Boardwalk's vibrancy, rather than displacing them through sweeps or blanket confiscations.
- Engage with the local Venice community, stakeholders, and cultural advocates to co-design improvements to Ocean Front Walk that balance public safety, cleanliness, and respect for Venice's historic and cultural identity.

- Recognize the strategic importance of Venice Beach as a global-destination neighborhood and allocate resources in advance of the upcoming international events (2026 FIFA World Cup, 2028 Summer Olympics) to ensure the Boardwalk's infrastructure and cultural amenities are maintained, accessible, safe, and welcoming.

Be it further resolved, the VNC urges Councilmember Park, the City Council, and the Mayor to act now, decisively, and collaboratively to safeguard Venice's cultural heritage, restore its historic landmarks, and support the community of artists and performers who make Venice come alive.