

## **Motion for Historical Restoration of Our Pagodas That Should Have Been on the 2-2-2026 OFW Committee Agenda**

**Title:** Historical restoration of pagodas on Ocean Front Walk (OFW)

### **Describe Discussion Item:**

The restoration planned for the pagodas along Ocean Front Walk needs to be open to public input.

There is overwhelming support for historical restoration of the pagodas to the way they were first built in 1931-1932.

The changes that the city of Los Angeles made to the pagodas in the late 1990s were not approved by the public or the California Coastal Commission.

### **Proposed Motion Language:**

Whereas the pagodas (originally called pergolas) on Ocean Front Walk were first built in 1931-1932

Whereas the pagodas' construction was financed by unemployment bond funds

Whereas the pagodas' original 1931 design is historical

Whereas the pagodas were designed by famous architect Gregory Ain (1908-1988)

Whereas the city of Los Angeles illegally and against its own refurbishment plans of 1997 decreased the size of the pagodas; reduced the number of seats under the pagodas; and fundamentally altered the design of the seats underneath the pagodas

Whereas the city of Los Angeles is making an investment into beautifying OFW ahead of the summer 2028 Olympics

Whereas the current design of the seats underneath the pagodas does not match the vernacular architecture of Venice

Whereas the current seating under the pagodas is not accessible to persons with disabilities, as specified under the Americans with Disabilities Act

Whereas the original pagodas have become iconic and were featured in popular films such as "Harry and Tonto", "Down and Out in Beverly Hills", "LA Story", "White Men Can't Jump", "Cobra", "Xanadu", and the Little Rascals' "Fish Hooky"

Whereas the original 1931 design of the pagodas would significantly improve the aesthetics of OFW

Whereas the Venice Neighborhood Council previously (2022 and 2024) passed resolutions requesting historical restoration of the pagodas

Whereas the California Coastal Commission did not approve the reduction in seats underneath the pagodas that occurred as a result of the remodel that took place in the late 1990s (the reduction/change in seats underneath the pagodas was not included in the OFW Refurbishment Plan submitted to the CCC in 1997)

**We are therefore:**

Requesting that the current refurbishment plan scheduled for the pagodas on OFW have the goal of restoration following the 1931 construction plans, as executed by Arthur Cox. These include, but are not limited to: original size of pagodas; original number and design of seats and seating areas underneath and around the pagodas; original color and decorations of the pagodas

Requesting that the Recreation and Parks Department and CD11 hold a Town Hall meeting for public input regarding restoration of the pagodas on OFW

Requesting that the design plans for the restoration of the pagodas be released and open for public input

Requesting that the VNC address this motion at the February VNC Board meeting because Recreation and Parks is scheduled to start working on the pagodas soon

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