

State Historical Resources Commission

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-03

Resolution of Recognition

Marin County Civic Center

WHEREAS, The Marin County Civic Center is one of the last major works of architect Frank Lloyd Wright's career, his 770th commission, and his only realized project for a government entity, and the Marin County Civic Center Administration and Hall of Justice buildings dramatically illustrate the kinship of Wright's architecture to the surrounding landscape; and,

WHEREAS, with regard to the site, Wright said, "We know that the good building is not the one that hurts the landscape, but is one that makes the landscape more beautiful than it was before that building was built. In Marin County you have one of the most beautiful landscapes I have seen, and I am proud to make the buildings of this County characteristic of the beauty of the County"; and,

WHEREAS, the Marin County Civic Center continues to serve government, community, and recreational functions every day, is a lasting example of the intersection of design and function, and has been recognized as a California Historical Landmark and a National Historic Landmark, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and has been nominated to the UNESCO World Heritage List; and,

WHEREAS, the UNESCO nomination concludes "The Civic Center is an unprecedented design to house the functions of county government, one of the most important building types in American city planning history, in a structure intended to symbolize the building's role in its regional setting. It was a total rethinking of the traditional government center, bringing multiple separate buildings into a unified structure linked by an internal sky-lit multistory gallery. The Civic Center was an early and prescient reworking of the nineteenth-century arcade or galleria type space that since its completion has continually fostered a sense of democratic community amongst the citizens and officials of Marin County"; and,

WHEREAS, the Marin County Department of Cultural Services spearheaded a new interactive app to showcase the Civic Center, and provide in-depth information about Wright's involvement and the history of the building;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that official recognition on behalf of the State Historical Resources Commission is given to the Marin County Civic Center for their dedication to the preservation, protection, and maintenance of, and to educating the public about this unique facility; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of the State Historical Resources Commission and a suitable copy presented to the Marin County Civic Center.

July 28, 2017

STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Marshall McKay
Chairperson

Julianne Polanco
Executive Secretary

