



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

18-1023

Agenda Date: 3/7/2019

2019 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

CDD 19-05

TITLE Update to the Heritage Resource Inventory to Include Potential Resources Associated with Technological Innovation

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Community Development
Support Departments: Office of the City Manager
Office of the City Attorney
Sponsor(s): Heritage Preservation Commission
History: 1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this study?

The current Heritage Resource Inventory is primarily made up of residential and commercial properties and districts. The designation of these resources is generally associated with architecture, early industry, historical events, and prominent individuals. Although some important technological innovation has originated in Sunnyvale, the City does not currently have any heritage resources on the local list that are tied to more modern technology. For example, the first computer game, Pong, was invented within the Moffett Park neighborhood.

A similar study issue was completed in 1996 to identify and promote knowledge of historical technological events in Sunnyvale (File #8783). Staff conducted extensive research, including published literature, patent data, and soliciting information from several companies. At that time, staff found a limited amount of Sunnyvale-focused information and industry professionals that were willing to participate in the study. The study also acknowledged the City's limited resources and in-house expertise to move the study forward. Staff also found it difficult to define criteria for significant technological advancements worth recognizing from a historic standpoint. Therefore, no further action was taken.

As development pressures continue, the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) expressed concerns over the loss of structures that may have historic value. Therefore, HPC identified the need to study the history of technological innovation in Sunnyvale and seek out potential resources that may be eligible for listing on Sunnyvale's Heritage Resource Inventory.

What are the key elements of the study?

Extensive research on the history of technological innovation in Sunnyvale would be conducted.

Based on the information obtained, potential properties that may be eligible for listing on the Heritage Resource Inventory would be identified. It is important to note that traditionally the City obtains property owner consent before adding a property to the Heritage Resource Inventory, the study would evaluate that aspect and inform property owners before adding any property to the inventory.

This study may include a review of existing publications related to the histories of technology, discussion with staff at the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum, and visits to local libraries. A review of other cities' historic preservation programs related to technology may also be completed. In addition, the City would conduct outreach meetings with affected and/or interested property owners and business owners and community members who may have valuable information to contribute to the topic.

Estimated years to complete study: 1 years

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost):	Moderate
Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs:	\$75,000
Funding Source:	Will seek budget supplement

A historical consultant would conduct research and evaluate properties for nomination to the Heritage Resource Inventory.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs.

EXPECTED CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION

Council-Approved Work Plan: No
Council Study Session: No
Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Heritage Preservation Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Support. This policy issue merits discussion at the 2019 Study Issues Workshop, subject to funding for the study.

Sunnyvale has historically been at the center of technological innovation and that history is not reflected in the current Heritage Resource Inventory. This is supported by the General Plan's Community Character Chapter and its goals and policies to enhance Sunnyvale's heritage and seek out potential resources which may have historic significance.

Study Issue CDD 18-02, Update and Review of the Heritage Resource Inventory, is related and could be combined with this study. Combining the two studies would result in a more comprehensive update to the Inventory and could avoid the need to obtain two separate consultants. The duration of the combined studies would likely take more than one year to complete and the full inventory project would include higher consultant costs.

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