

City Council Study Session
Bruce's Beach Park Plaque Language
Thursday, March 10, 2022
6:00 PM
Zoom Meeting



ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Hildy Stern

Mayor Pro Tem Steve Napolitano

Councilmember Richard Montgomery

Councilmember Joe Franklin

Councilmember Suzanne Hadley

City Treasurer Tim Lilligren

EXECUTIVE TEAM

City Manager Bruce Moe

City Attorney Quinn Barrow

City Clerk Liza Tamura

Community Development Director Carrie Tai

Finance Director Steve Charelian

Fire Chief Michael Lang

Human Resources Director Lisa Jenkins

Information Technology Director Terry Hackelman

Parks and Recreation Director Mark Leyman

Interim Police Chief Derrick Abell

Public Works Director Erick Lee

MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to provide excellent municipal services,
preserve our small beach town character, and enhance the quality of life for our
residents, businesses and visitors.

MANHATTAN BEACH'S CITY COUNCIL WELCOMES YOU!

By participating in City Council meetings, you are participating in the process of representative government. To encourage that participation, the City Council provides an early opportunity for public comments under "Public Comments," at which time speakers may comment on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council, including items on the agenda.

*The City continues to offer an opportunity to participate in Council meetings via Zoom. In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, the City Council encourages the public to participate by submitting comments in advance of the meeting, no later than **5:30 PM, March 10, 2022** (the day of the meeting), via:*

- 1) eComment at <http://www.manhattanbeach.gov/ecomment>
- 2) email to cityclerk@manhattanbeach.gov or
- 3) telephone message recorded at **(310) 802-5030**.

All of your comments provided by the deadlines above will be available to the City Council and the public prior to the meeting.

In addition, you may participate by joining Zoom during the meeting. Instructions are provided on item D (Public Comments).

Copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to each item of business referred to on this agenda are available for review on the City's website at www.manhattanbeach.gov, the Police Department located at 420 15th Street, and are also on file in the Office of the City Clerk for public inspection. Any person who has any question concerning any agenda item may call the City Clerk's office at (310) 802-5056.

Meetings are broadcast live through Manhattan Beach Local Community Cable, Channel 8 (Spectrum), Channel 35 (Frontier), and live streaming via the City's website.

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the Office of the City Clerk at (310) 802-5056 (voice) or (310) 546-3501 (TDD). Notification 36 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting. The City also provides closed captioning of all its Regular City Council Meetings for the hearing impaired.

CERTIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA POSTING

I, Liza Tamura, City Clerk of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, state under penalty of perjury that this notice/ agenda was posted on Friday, March 4, 2022, on the City's Website and on the bulletin boards of City Hall, Joslyn Community Center and Manhattan Heights.

BELOW ARE THE AGENDA ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED.

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER PERSON)

Speakers may provide public comments on any matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council, including items on the agenda. The Mayor may determine whether an item is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council. While all comments are welcome, the Brown Act does not allow City Council to take action on any item not on the agenda.

The City Council encourages the public to participate by submitting comments in advance of the meeting, no later than **5:30 PM, March 10, 2022** (the day of the meeting), via:

- 1) eComment at <http://www.manhattanbeach.gov/ecomment>
- 2) email to cityclerk@manhattanbeach.gov or
- 3) telephone message recorded at **(310) 802-5030**.

All of your comments provided by the deadlines above will be available to the City Council and the public prior to the meeting.

NOON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

If you wish to speak on any item on the agenda, please register in advance by clicking the following link: <https://citymb.seamlessdocs.com/f/publiccomment>, even when submitting this request you will need to use the "raise hand" feature via Zoom during the presentation of that Agenda Item in order to confirm with the City Clerk's Office that you wish to provide comments.

- 1) Join Zoom Meeting via the internet:

Direct URL: <https://citymb-info.zoom.us/j/93376200363>, Meeting ID: 933 7620 0363

During the meeting you will need to use the "raise hand" button through Zoom at the time the Agenda Item is being presented for City Council consideration.

- 2) Join Zoom Meeting via Phone Conference (Voice Only):

Phone Number: (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 933 7620 0363

During the meeting you will need to enter *9 on the phone's dial pad to "raise your hand" at the time the Agenda Item is being presented for City Council consideration.

Please note, the City is not responsible for the public's use of Zoom as it relates to the software, configuration, and setting on a personal device. The public is encouraged to visit the Zoom website for information on use of this software. The City's use of Zoom is consistent with the platform features and functions as described on the Zoom.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Consideration of the Language for and Placement of Plaques at Bruce's Beach (City Manager Moe).

[22-0112](#)**DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION**

Attachments: [HAB Proposed Language for the Plaque at Bruce's Beach Park \(Plaque No. 1\)](#)
[HAB Proposed Language for the Plaque at the Strand \(Plaque No. 2\)](#)
[Proposed Photographs to be Used on the Plaques](#)
[Public Arts Trust Fund Summary](#)
[Potential Locations](#)
[Plaque Examples](#)
[Proposed Language – Councilmember Hadley](#)
[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

F. ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

1400 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
www.manhattanbeach.gov • (310) 802-5000

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: 3/10/2022

TO:

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

THROUGH:

Bruce Moe, City Manager

FROM:

Alexandria Latragna, Policy and Management Analyst

SUBJECT:

Consideration of the Language for and Placement of Plaques at Bruce's Beach (City Manager Moe).

DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt final plaque language, provide direction on the design and placement of the plaques, and allocate up to \$20,000 from the Public Arts Trust Fund to cover the costs of the revised plaques and necessary modifications to ensure proper installation and accessibility.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The construction and installation of the plaques as proposed are estimated to cost up to \$20,000. Staff will determine the precise amount once the City Council provides further direction regarding the proposals. Funds are available within the Public Art Trust Fund, and will need to be allocated for this purpose.

BACKGROUND:

On October 20, 2020, City Council appointed residents to a task force created with the purpose of addressing the history of Bruce's Beach and report back to the City Council with recommendations on the topic. The Task Force served as an advisory body to the City Council and proposed a number of recommendations at the March 16, 2021, meeting. At that meeting, the Council directed the Task Force's History Advisory Board ((HAB)) to propose language for plaques at Bruce's Beach Park as well as a plaque at the County Lifeguard Administration Building near the Strand.

The HAB continued its work on the proposed plaque language and brought a draft for

consideration at the July 20, 2021, City Council meeting. At that meeting, the Council again carefully considered the language and gave further direction to the HAB for revisions. Subsequently, the HAB met at five additional duly noticed meetings to address concerns and suggestions from the public as well as incorporate suggested changes from the Council. On November 2, 2021, the City Council considered a revised draft of the language for the plaques and requested a study session to consider further edits.

DISCUSSION:

Language

The attached proposed plaque language was presented to City Council at the November 2, 2021, meeting.

Of note, the County of Los Angeles has indicated that they are going to be placing an educational panel on County property at Bruce's Beach. The proposed language for the County's educational panel is a condensed version of the plaque language presented by the HAB at the November 2, 2021, City Council meeting. Staff reached out to representatives of the County to determine further details regarding the timing and placement of the educational panel, but no further details were provided.

Additionally, Councilmember Hadley has submitted proposed plaque language for Council consideration (attached).

Placement

City Council directed the placement of two plaques, one at the Strand and another to replace the current plaque at the Park. Attached are various proposed locations where the plaque may be placed; staff recommends that the City Council provide direction on placement of both plaques.

Design and Installation

Several examples of plaques have been included for City Council consideration. Depending on direction from Council, costs may vary. Some considerations that should be taken into account:

- Durability of structure against natural elements (sun, ocean air, rain, sprinklers, graffiti, etc.);
- City aesthetic;
- Blocking views of residents in the surrounding neighborhood; and
- Conflicts with future related art in the park.

Once the plaques have been fabricated, the Public Works Department may complete the installation. Staff recommends purchasing several replacements for the plaque should there be graffiti or other wear and tear. Ongoing maintenance for the plaques will be accounted for in future budgets.

Staff recommends that the City Council provide direction on the design and installation of the plaques.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt final plaque language, provide direction on the design and placement of the plaques, and allocate up to \$20,000 from the Public Arts Trust Fund to cover the costs of the revised plaques and necessary modifications to ensure proper installation and accessibility.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

The History Advisory Board held 18 public meetings (nine of which were dedicated exclusively to plaque wording), and solicited and received input and public comment from community stakeholders. Additionally, the City Council has considered the plaque language at two public meetings and heard hundreds of public comments relating to the language.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. HAB Proposed Language for the Plaque at Bruce's Beach Park (Plaque No. 1)
2. HAB Proposed Language for the Plaque at the Strand (Plaque No. 2)
3. Proposed Photographs to be Used on the Plaques
4. Public Arts Trust Fund Summary
5. Potential Locations
6. Plaque Examples
7. Proposed Language - Councilmember Hadley
8. PowerPoint Presentation

This plaque would be two-sided and replace the existing one on Highland Avenue. The second side would have a map detailing where each property was located for visitors to see how the area was laid out and whose property was where. Each QR code will link to more information, as well as photographs and full newspaper articles.

The Historic Black Enclave of Bruce's Beach

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. and Willie "Willa" A. Bruce

Mrs. Willie "Willa" A. Bruce purchased Lot 8 of Block 5 on the Strand in Peck's Manhattan Beach Tract in 1912. With her husband, Charles, Willa opened Bruce's Beach on June 17, 1912, a seaside resort for bathing and fishing. It started as a small portable cottage that sold soda pop and lunches. Guests could rent bathing suits, access showers and dressing tents. While Charles worked as a chef on the train, Willa ran the business. As hundreds of guests visited the resort, other Black families purchased property in this section of Manhattan Beach, creating a diverse summer community. *For the history of the Bruce Resort, please see the plaque located on the strand. [QR CODE 8 – Page 18]*

Major Reverend George W. and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau

In 1919, the Prioleaus purchased the southern half of Lot 4, Block 12. During the Spanish-American War, Maj. Rev. Prioleau served with the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th Cavalry. During her husband's military service, Ethel taught classes for army officers' wives. Maj. Rev. Prioleau challenged the hypocrisy of fighting a war for liberation in Cuba while the United States was locked in the mindset of racism and segregation. He moved to Los Angeles following his retirement and founded the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. Ethel graduated from Normal Teacher Training College in Kansas. After her children were barred from accessing the swimming pool in Exposition Park, she successfully sued the city of Los Angeles, resulting in the desegregation of city pools.

Mrs. Mary R. Sanders (Washington)

On September 15, 1923, Mrs. Mary Sanders (not pictured) bought Lot 6, Block 12. Mrs. Sanders was born 1872 in Canada and immigrated to the United States in 1887. She worked as a caterer for private families and was described as "a woman of considerable success and prestige."

Ms. Elizabeth (Emma) M. Patterson

The other half of the Prioleau lot was purchased by Ms. Elizabeth M. Patterson in 1922. Ms. Patterson was born in Tennessee in 1877 and was a longtime friend of the Prioleau family from when they lived in Kansas. Together, Ms. Patterson and the Prioleaus built a

duplex on their lots. This duplex still exists in a different location today in Manhattan Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton B. and Anna E. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Milton B. and Anna Johnson (not pictured) purchased Lot 1, Block 12 in 1923. Milton B. Johnson was born in Canada and came to the United States in 1874. He married Anna E. Davis on October 27, 1914. Milton worked as a porter for the railroad.

Mr. and Mrs. James and Lula Slaughter

The Slaughter family moved to Manhattan Beach during the eminent domain proceedings, purchasing property to the south of the condemned area. In May 1927, the same month that the Bruces' resort closed, the Slaughters opened a 10 - room boarding house. They lived in Manhattan Beach year-round with their seven children.

Other Property Owners

The remaining 25 lots of land in those two blocks were owned by White property owners. Fourteen of the lots were owned by investors B.H. Dyer, R.L. Rice, and H.M. Eichelberger and were never developed.

The other lots owned by White property owners were: C.W. Stone - Lot 3, Block 5; George W. Yarrow - Lots 4 and 6, Block 5 and Lot 11, Block 12; Lillie D. Dosta - Lot 7, Block 5; Sarah I. Ambrose, Marion R. Wyser (Southern California Bond & Finance Company) - Lot 7, Block 12; R.C. Ruperd Lot 10, Block 12; Grace R Stuart- Lot 13, Block 12; L.A. Dreisbach (M.W. Mitchell) - Lot 14, Block 12; Clara M. Monroe - Lot 15, Block 12; and H.A. Eccleston - Lot 16, Block 12. By 1924, none of them had been developed, nor were there any indications of development plans by 1929.

Harassment Protested by the NAACP [QR CODE 10 – Page 33]

Despite the condemnation proceedings and ongoing harassment from White residents, Black beachgoers continued to visit Manhattan Beach. In May 1927, the Manhattan Beach Board of Trustees leased the entire beach between 16th and 19th Streets, and later all of 25th Street, to local businessman, Oscar C. Bessonette. Now considered private property, unwanted visitors to the beach could be subject to arrest.

On July 4, 1927, a 19-year-old Black UCLA student, Elizabeth Catley, was arrested by Manhattan Beach Police for “trespassing” on the “private beach.” According to the *Times*, she was held in the Redondo Beach jail for hours wearing only her bathing suit.

On July 17, the NAACP organized a peaceful protest led by Los Angeles chapter President Dr. Henry Claude Hudson, Manhattan Beach resident John McCaskill, J.H. Conley and Romalious Johnson. The men were arrested for resisting an officer and taken to jail. During their August trial, Bessonette admitted under oath that the intention of the “no trespassing” signs was to keep “undesirables” -- which he defined as “colored people” -- off the beach.

The court found the defendants guilty. But the men appealed to the Superior Court of Los Angeles, and their attorney Hugh E. Macbeth moved for “an arrest of judgement in the Manhattan court.” This request was granted, and the City Council canceled its lease with Bessonette, thereby opening the beaches to all.

The next day, *The California Eagle* proudly declared: “NAACP Wins Beach Victory.” In a telegram to the national branch of the NAACP printed in *The Chicago Defender*, Dr. Hudson, Los Angeles branch president, proclaimed: “Manhattan Beach fight won. Only 45 days from the first intimidation of Colored citizens in Manhattan to complete victory by [the] Los Angeles branch.”

The NAACP’s actions and the court’s decision set a precedent that would forever discourage “private exploitation” of the Manhattan beachfront. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, this would forbid the erection of any building or barrier that would obstruct any citizens at any time. It reported: “The beach is open only for public playground.”

The “Race War” of 1928 [QR CODE 11]

On the night of October 18, 1927, “hooded” individuals allegedly approached the Slaughter residence and set the gas meter aflame. Awakened by smoke, the Slaughters extinguished the fire. *The California Eagle* reported that “there are individuals who are...endeavoring to terrorize and instill fear into the hearts of Colored residents of Manhattan Beach.”

In February 1928, Los Angeles newspaper *The Record*, reported an announcement by chief detective of the Los Angeles district attorney’s office, George Contreras, of an investigation into the “burning and dynamiting of the home of negro residents of Manhattan Beach, which has grown to the proportion of a race war.” *The Venice Evening Vanguard* stated that “the anti-negro forces have tried to keep the town white by even buying out colored holdings at more than their true value, but in vain. Failing in peaceful means, harsher measures apparently have been resorted to in order to gain their ends, say the investigators.”

The 1928 Grand Jury did not pursue any formal indictments, and according to the *Times*, more evidence was requested. No witnesses were called in the investigation.

The Bruce Legacy of the Park [QR CODE 12]

Although development plans were documented, accounts vary as to how much progress was made in the construction of the public park. From 1928 until 1962, the area was referred to as City Park or Beach Front Park, and following a contest hosted by the Kiwanis Club in 1962, it was officially designated Bayview Terrace Park. As a goodwill gesture to the Sister City Program, the park was renamed Parque Culiacan in 1974.

In 2005, Manhattan Beach resident and activist Patrick McBride requested re-naming the park to reflect its history related to civil rights. Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Commission agreed. After passionate public comment from community members, the park was officially named Bruce's Beach and dedicated on Saturday, March 31, 2007. Willie "Willa" and Charles's grandson, Bernard Bruce told the crowd: "This is a happy day for my family and me. It is a happy day for Southern California, for African Americans, for the whole country. We are remembering our past."

DRAFT

This is the wording for the plaque that would go on the Strand at the exact location of Bruce's Beach. It focuses solely on the Bruces. Additional information about the other property owners is on the second plaque that would be on Highland Ave. This would replace the existing plaque. Each QR code will link to more information found in the History Report, as well as photographs and /or full newspaper articles.

The History of Bruce's Beach

Willa Bruce – A Pioneering Entrepreneur

In February 1912, Willie “Willa” Ann Bruce (b. 1862, Missouri) purchased a lot on the Strand in Manhattan Beach, determined to create a destination where Black Angelinos could relax and enjoy the ocean. **[QR CODE 1 – Page 17]** During the time of Jim Crow-era exclusionary real estate practices, Willa proclaimed to the *Los Angeles Times*, “Wherever we have tried to buy land for a beach resort we have been refused. But I own this land and I’m going to keep it.”

While her husband Charles Aaron Bruce (b. 1860, District of Columbia) worked as a dining car chef on the train between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City, Mrs. Bruce ran the business. It officially opened on June 17, 1912, with a small portable cottage that rented bathing suits, offered changing rooms, and sold refreshments to the beachgoing public. Notably, it was one of the few places along the Pacific Coast where Black beachgoers could access such amenities.

Increased Popularity Creates Increased Opposition

Harassment of the Bruces and their guests by some White neighbors occurred immediately after the resort opened. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, “No Trespassing” signs were posted in front of the Bruces’ resort on a strip of beach owned by subdivider George Peck, where visitors were “confronted by two deputy constables who warned them against crossing the strip of land in front of Mrs. Bruce’s property to reach the ocean.” Black beachgoers walked a half mile around the prohibited area and “frolicked in the breakers” nonetheless. **[QR CODE 2 – Page 19]**

The popularity of the Bruces’ resort increased, drawing hundreds – and, at times, thousands – of Black visitors to the area. By the summer of 1916, the Bruces’ replaced their portable cottage with a two-story structure that included changing rooms, a dance hall, and restaurant. Encouraged by the Bruces’ success, other Black families purchased land in the surrounding area and built cottages and vacation homes, creating a summer community for Black Angelinos.

With the influx of Black landowners, some White citizens were concerned that this “Negro invasion” would negatively affect their property values. To protect their interests, they petitioned the Board of Trustees in November 1923 to condemn the land, with the oblique intention of thwarting the Bruces’ business and driving the Black community out of the City.

In 1924, the Board of Trustees passed Ordinance No. 282, which ordered the acquisition by condemnation of Blocks 5 and 12 in Peck’s Manhattan Beach with the stated intention of creating a public park. The area included 30 lots, of which only five were developed. These five lots were owned by members of the Black resort community and included Bruce’s Beach. More information is included on the plaque on Highland Ave. **[QR CODE 3 – Page 29]**

The Racist Motivation Behind the Eminent Domain Action [QR CODE 4 – Daugherty Essay in Manhattan Beach News; QR CODE 5 - Page 30]

In 1943, Frank Daugherty, a member of the City’s Board of Trustees from 1915-1920 and 1923-1924, admitted to the *Manhattan Beach News*, “Our attorneys advised the members of the council never to admit the real purpose in establishing the park...” In a February 4, 1927, letter to the *Manhattan Beach News*, the Bruce family wrote: “...the attempt to make a park out of these two blocks was a direct slap at us because we were not born white people.”

The Legacy of Bruce’s Beach

On May 16, 1927, the Bruce family left Manhattan Beach. They requested \$70,000 for their property and \$50,000 in damages; the Court awarded them \$14,500. **[QR CODE 6 – page 44]** The resort was soon demolished, but the Bruces’ legacy would persevere. A series of peaceful protests occurred that summer along the Manhattan Beach shoreline supported by the NAACP that would alter the beachfront landscape of the City indefinitely. Details of this can be found on the additional plaque on Highland Avenue. **[QR CODE 7 – page 33]**

Plaque #1 on the Strand



Beachgoers Louise & Byron Kenner in front of Bruce's Beach, circa 1920. Courtesy of the Miriam Matthews Photograph Collections, Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.



Willa Bruce, left, with her daughter-in-law Meda Bruce and her sister Ms. Tillman in Manhattan Beach in the 1920s. Courtesy of the California African American Museum.



Circa 1886, Charles and Willa Bruce at their wedding in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Courtesy of the California African American Museum.



Looking north/northwest from Marine, circa 1916. Peck's Pavilion is on the beach, west of The Strand, and the Bruces' resort was on the eastside of The Strand. The pier in the distance is the Standard Oil Pier and the pilings in the near background are what remained of Peck's Pier. Courtesy of the Manhattan Beach Historical Society.



Visitors standing on the boardwalk north of Bruce's Beach. Fannie Washington; Journee W. White and his wife, Mamie Cunningham White; and Elbridge Lee. Courtesy of the Miriam Matthews Photograph Collections, Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.



California Eagle Headline, Friday, January 6, 1927



California Eagle Headline, Friday, August 18, 1927

Plaque #2 at the Park



James Slaughter, Courtesy of the Miriam Matthews Photograph Collections, Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.



Friends gather on the sand in front of the Bruces' resort. Courtesy of the Miriam Matthews Photograph Collections, Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.



(left to right) Mary Prioleau (Stafford King), Ethel Susanna "Sue" Prioleau (Bowdan), Ethel G. Prioleau, George Prioleau Jr, Major George Prioleau (before birth of Lois Emma Prioleau (Patton), Circa 1920. Courtesy of Ana Gonzales, Prioleau Granddaughter.



Mary Ethel King (1930-2014), daughter of Mary Prioleau and Ralph King, 1st Prioleau grandchild, standing on a table with Prioleau Manhattan Beach cottage in the background, circa 1932. From the files of Mary King, courtesy of the Prioleau-King family.



George, Sue, Mary Prioleau with family friend Geneva, *Circa 1929*



Mrs. Willa Bruce, standing in front of James Stafford (1848 – 1927), father of Ethel Prioleau, with family friends. *Circa 1920's*



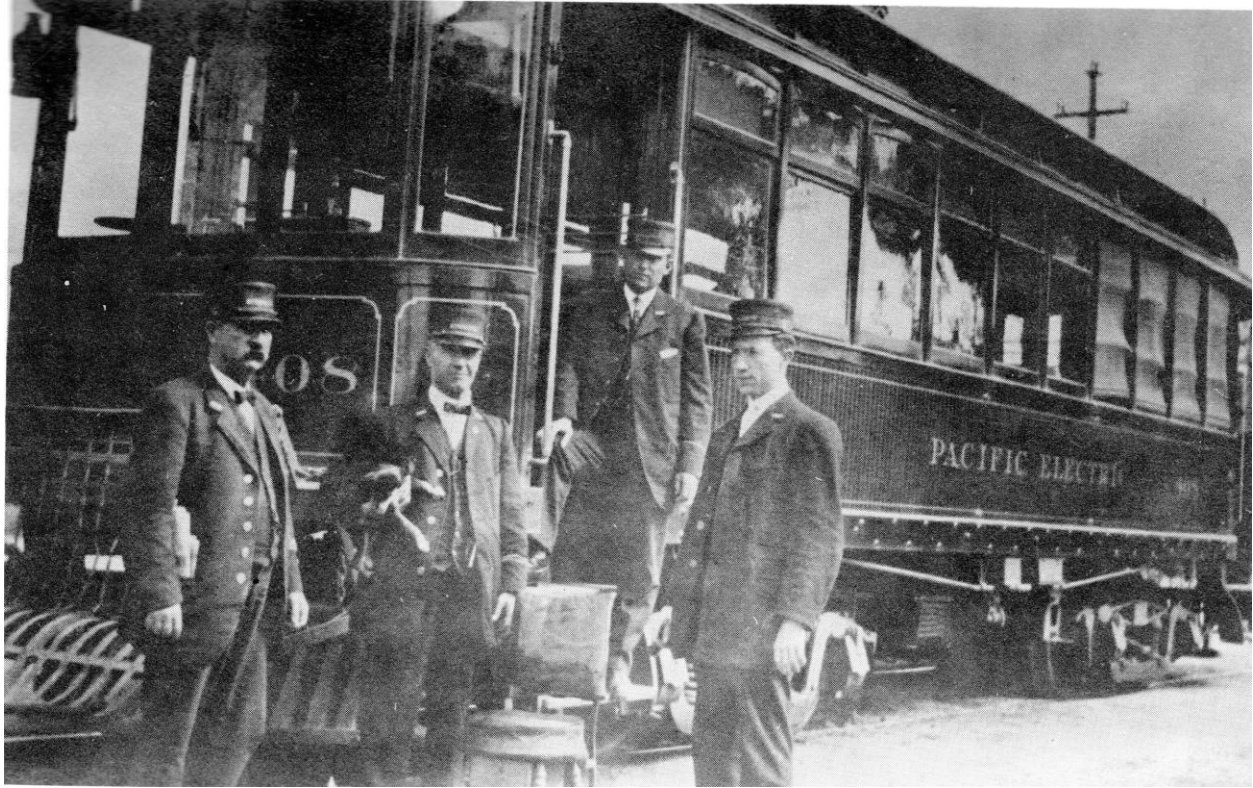
Elizabeth Catley. Courtesy of Lorraine Cook-Curry.



(left to right) Meda Simmons Bruce, Harvey Bruce, and Willa Bruce, date unknown.
Courtesy of the California African American Museum.



Ms. Elizabeth Patterson. Courtesy of the Patterson Family.



Visitors to Manhattan Beach often traveled from Los Angeles on the Red Car, circa 1916. Courtesy of the Manhattan Beach Historical Society.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Mrs. Bruce has built a new and up-to-date Bath at the famous resort known as "BRUCE'S BEACH" or formerly Peck's Pavilion. Surf bathing, those good, bounteous fried Fish Meals and many other attractions. A modern life line with every safety device will be installed. Come and enjoy the day, week-end or longer at this home-like outing place.

Advertisement in the California Eagle, April 29, 1926

MEET ME THERE!—WHERE?

Bruce's Beach

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1922

GRAND EXCURSION AND SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

Given by the St. Paul Baptist Church

Advertisement in the California Eagle, May 27, 1922



Manhattan City Park in 1959, looking south/southwest toward Highland. Courtesy of the South Bay History Collection, CSUDH.

MAP OF PROPERTY INCLUDED IN THE 1924-1929 CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS



 BLACK-OWNED PROPERTY

 STRUCTURES

City Council Study Session
 Bruce's Beach Park Plaque Language
 March 10, 2022

NAME	PLOT NUMBER
B. H. Dyer, R. L. Rice, & H. M. Eichelberger	1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
C. W. Stone	3
G. W. Yarrow	4, 6
L. D. Dosta	7
W. A. Bruce	8, 9

NAME	PLOT NUMBER	NAME	PLOT NUMBER
M. B. & A. E. Johnson & E. K. Barnett	1	R. C. Rupert	10
B. H. Dyer, R. L. Rice, & H. M. Eichelberger	2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 12	G. W. Yarrow	11
E. Patterson	4	G. Stuart	13
Maj. G. & E. Prioleau	4	L. A. Dreisbach (M. W. Mitchell)	14
M. R. Sanders	6	C. M. Monroe	15
S. I. Ambrose, M. R. Wyser, (So. Calif. Bond & Finance Corp.)	7	H. A. Eccleston	16

PUBLIC ARTS TRUST SUMMARY

3/3/2022

802-21708

Eden 802-21907

Trust Fund Balance **\$2,231,514.53**

Allocations

Bruce's Beach Art	350,000.00
Sculpture Garden	(6,103.84)
Public Art Conservation	20,000.00
Utility Boxes	16,014.75
Trust Grant Program	50,000.00
AC Conner Exhibit	0.00
Mural Program	198,253.34
Lobby Art	298,456.96
History Archive	57,661.42
Scrambled Crosswalks	8,000.00
Subtotal Allocation Balances	992,282.63

Unallocated Balance **\$1,239,231.90**

Expiring before 12/31/2017	-
Expiring before 12/31/2018	-
Expiring before 12/31/2019	-
Expiring before 12/31/2020	-
Expiring before 12/31/2021	-
Expiring before 12/31/2022	-
Expiring before 12/31/2023	404,396.83
Expiring before 12/31/2024	499,596.09
Expiring before 12/31/2025	45,963.85
Expiring before 12/31/2026	274,745.13
Expiring before 12/31/2027	14,530.00

1,239,231.90 **Check**



















COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT

FITNESS EQUIPMENT OPEN

SUNDAY - SATURDAY 8:00 AM - DUSK OCCUPANCY: 15 MAX

BEFORE ENTERING, PLEASE BE SURE YOU HAVE NO SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19.

BE PARK SMART WITH YOUR FACE COVER ON AND STAY SIX FEET APART

NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED IN FITNESS AREA AT ANY TIME
WASH AND SANITIZE YOUR HANDS OFTEN

PLEASE DO YOUR PART AND ADHERE TO THE PARK RULES AND COVID-19 MANDATORY PROTOCOLS FOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT

PLAN AHEAD AND SHARE OUR SPACE. VISIT THE PARK AT DIFFERENT TIMES TO AVOID CROWDS AND WAITING UP TO 30 MINUTES IF PEOPLE ARE WAITING.

PEOPLE WITH UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS SHOULD AVOID FITNESS EQUIPMENT WHEN OTHERS ARE PRESENT.

THIS IS OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR HEALTH.
FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY, CALL PUBLIC SAFETY AT 303.543.4348

EXAMPLE 1



Rochdale Canal

EXAMPLE 2



EXAMPLE 3



Proposed Language from Councilmember Suzanne Hadley:

This County Lifeguard station sits on land previously owned by Willa and Charles Bruce who arrived in Manhattan Beach in 1912.

Despite opposition to Blacks' owning land elsewhere in California, Willa and her husband purchased two lots in 1912 and 1920 for a total of \$1,235 and built a successful beach resort for the Black community.

Other Black families moved to the area around Bruce's Lodge and bought permanent homes or summer cottages.

Thirty families (25 White and 5 Black) owned property near Bruce's Lodge.

In 1924 the Manhattan Beach Board of Trustees used eminent domain to seize the properties of Bruce's Lodge and neighboring landowners to create a city park.

At that time, several sources alleged the city's action was racially motivated.

All landowners were compensated for the seizure.

As the only fulltime residents in the area, and the only owners of a business, the Bruces received \$14,500, the largest portion of the legal settlement.

Four of the five Black families bought property elsewhere in Manhattan Beach.

However, Willa and Charles Bruce moved to Los Angeles in 1927 where they purchased three properties.

The area formerly known as Bruce's Lodge, and the surrounding parcels, was developed into a city park after the Great Depression and World War II.

Although no portion of the city park was ever owned by the Bruces, the city park was renamed Bruce's Beach Park in 2007 as a remembrance and tribute to the family.

240 words

Note: This PowerPoint presentation is intended solely as a visual aid to an oral staff presentation of an agenda report topic. In the event of any differences between the presentation and the agenda report, the information in the agenda report prevails.

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION BRUCE'S BEACH PLAQUES

City Council Study Session
Bruce's Beach Park Plaque Language
March 10, 2022



TIMELINE

Note: This PowerPoint presentation is intended solely as a visual aid to an oral staff presentation of an agenda report topic. In the event of any differences between the presentation and the agenda report, the information in the agenda report prevails.

- Oct. 2020: BBTF formed
- Mar. 2021: Recommendations presented
- Jun. 2021: City Council adopted the History Report
- Jul. 2021: HAB presented proposed plaque language
- Nov. 2021: HAB presented proposed plaque language

DIRECTION FROM CITY COUNCIL

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1. Acknowledge the history of Bruce's Beach
2. Draft language to replace the current plaque
3. Install two plaques (one at the Strand and one at the Park)

LANGUAGE

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- HAB Proposed Language for both plaques
- Councilmember proposed language
- County educational panels

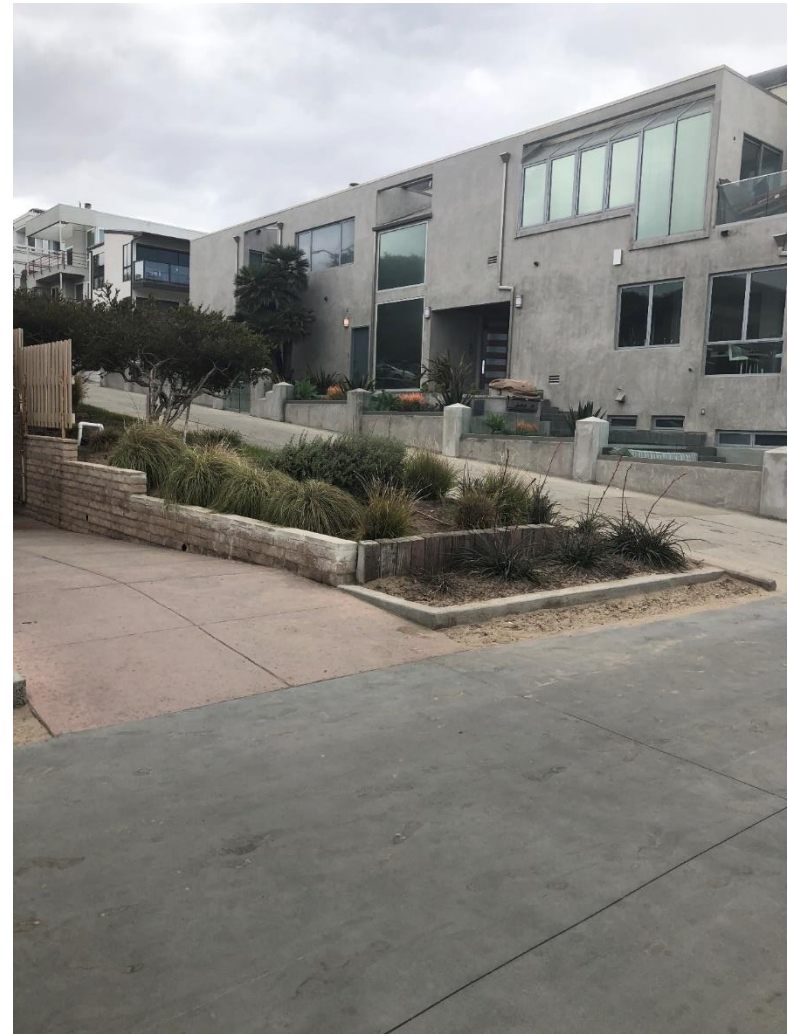
PLACEMENT

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DESIGN & INSTALLATION

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Rochdale Canal

DESIGN & INSTALLATION

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COUNCIL DECISION POINTS

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- Language
- Placement
- Design & Installation
- Allocate Funding from Public Arts Trust Fund