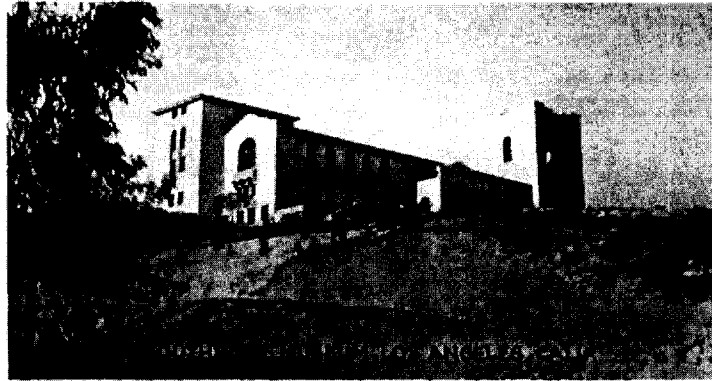


# COMING SOON! Charles Lummis and the Raiders of the Southwest Museum!



The 1914 Southwest Museum founded by Lummis is under attack  
by the Gene Autry Museum in Griffith Park!

Los Angeles Conservancy members can help save  
Los Angeles's First and Most Historic Museum by speaking out.

Los Angeles Conservancy members care about Los Angeles and the preservation of our history. Conservancy members are knowledgeable about HOW the Southwest Museum could be preserved for future generations. The City of Los Angeles is about to begin a series of public meetings to discuss the future of the Autry National Center and the Southwest Museum. *This flyer is the first of a series by the Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition to Los Angeles Conservancy members and friends to educate and call people to action.*

## The U.S. Secretary of Interior's Standards

The United States Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (1995), whether discussing Preservation or Rehabilitation of a property, all begin with a preference that an historic property, if feasible, **should be used as it was historically** in any effort to preserve, rehabilitate, or restore it. The Secretary's first standard of each possible treatment of the Southwest Museum begins with the preference that an owner should first and foremost continue to use a property "as it was historically":

"Standards for Preservation

1. **A property will be used as it was historically**, or be given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships. \* \* \*

Standards for Rehabilitation

1. **A property will be used as it was historically** or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships."  
(see full details at [http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_8\\_2.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_8_2.htm))

So why is the Autry Museum in Griffith Park trying to take the Collection away from the Southwest Museum and abandon the “way it was used historically” *for no good reason?*

(over)

We believe there is significant evidence demonstrating that the promises made by the former Autry Museum of Western Heritage to the California Attorney General, the Mayor of Los Angeles, and the Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition are being breached and ignored by the Autry Board of Directors and its Management. These promises were made in connection with the 2003 merger of the Autry and Southwest Museums. Although prior to the 2003 merger and in the merger documents, the Autry Board of Directors and Autry Management promised that best efforts would be made to continue to use the Southwest Museum to exhibit this important Collection in a preserved and rehabilitated museum building, the Autry NOW claims, *without a shred of objective evidence to support the claim*, that it is “not feasible” to continue to use the Southwest Museum as the primary exhibition site for the very first museum in this City. Today, the Autry is undertaking a misleading public relations campaign to claim that the historic use of the Southwest Museum must be abandoned and a “new cultural use” found. Autry claims it is consistent with Preservation Standards to take away the Southwest Museum’s Collection and Name to Griffith Park and install it in a new 100,000 square foot stucco addition to its existing museum. Thus, unless the People of Los Angeles speak out, the City may actually consider giving permission to use our taxpayer-owned land in Griffith Park to enable Autry’s raid of the Southwest Museum. *Will you stand by in silence or will City officials hear your opinion?*

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Los Angeles Conservancy members can go online to educate themselves about this disturbing turn of events and then participate in the public debate over whether the City of Los Angeles should give the Autry the permit to carry out what Councilmember Ed Reyes has called “Cultural Piracy.” Space does not allow a full explanation in this brief flyer. The Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition will engage the members of the Conservancy during the Last Remaining Seats film series with a series of flyers – each focusing on particular claims surrounding the Autry’s proposal to take taxpayer land in Griffith Park to help it steal the Southwest Museum’s Collection to its own cowboy museum. *We urge your participation in this debate.*

## **ONLINE RESOURCES TO EDUCATE YOU**

**Charles Lummis** – One of the most important figures in early Los Angeles history who envisioned a museum for all cultures of the Southwest and built at this prominent and spectacular site in the historic Arroyo Seco.  
[www.charleslummis.com](http://www.charleslummis.com)

**Autry National Center** – Read the latest public statement that it will close the Southwest Museum exhibits on July 1, 2006 and hold the Collection hostage until the City of Los Angeles gives it a permit for Griffith Park.  
[www.autrynationalcenter.org](http://www.autrynationalcenter.org) [www.southwestmuseum.org](http://www.southwestmuseum.org) [www.geneautry.com](http://www.geneautry.com)

**Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition** – We are a Coalition of 75 organizations who are alarmed by Autry’s stewardship of the Southwest Museum campus in the Arroyo Seco. Read background information and download studies giving credible evidence that the highest and best use of the Southwest Museum is a museum (with modern day interactive and engaging museum exhibits and programs located in the historic building!).  
[www.friendsofsouthwestmuseum.org](http://www.friendsofsouthwestmuseum.org) Offer help! Contact the Coalition at [swmcoalition@pacbell.net](mailto:swmcoalition@pacbell.net)

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Tentative dates of City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission sponsored public meetings about the future of the Autry and Southwest Museums and Collections. **All meetings but 6/24 to be 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

June 8, 2006 - **Eagle Rock Community Center**, 2225 Colorado Blvd., in Eagle Rock

June 14, 2006 – **Marvin Braude Constituent Center**, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., in Van Nuys Civic Center

June 22, 2006 - **Plaza de la Raza**, 3540 N Mission Rd, in Lincoln Heights

June 24, 2006 - **African American Museum**, 600 State Drive in Exposition Park near USC (**Time TBA**)

June 29, 2006 - **Ramona Hall**, 4580 N. Figueroa Street, in Highland Park/Mount Washington

*Why is the City conducting public outreach for the Autry National Center? Good question. See you next week.*