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CRA/LA Helps Rehab Boyle Heights’ Historic “Mariachi Hotel”

Makeover Will Yield 50 Affordable Housing Units



Los Angeles — A \$2-million loan to help an East Los Angeles nonprofit rehabilitate and expand the historic “Mariachi Hotel” in Boyle Heights was approved Thursday, November 6, by the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA).

Upon City Council approval, a two-year, low-interest loan will be provided to the East LA Community Corporation (ELACC). The \$22.8-million

project includes rehabilitating 31 affordable rental units in the Boyle Hotel, known as the Mariachi Hotel, and adding 20 new affordable units on nearby parcels.

“Rehabilitation of this Boyle Heights historic landmark will not only improve existing substandard housing, but also add new affordable housing directly across the from the soon-to-be-completed Mariachi Plaza Gold Line station,” said CRA/LA board chairman William Jackson.

“This high-profile project in the heart of Boyle Heights combines the old and new,” he added. “It preserves a historic, 118-year-old building and the mariachi tradition, within a new transit-oriented development and a building that will now have energy-conserving sustainable construction and features.”

Built in 1889, the Victorian-styled Boyle Hotel at 101-105 N. Boyle Street, is one of the most prominent and historic structures within the CRA/LA’s Adelante Eastside Redevelopment Project Area in the Eastside Region. It is home to low-income tenants, many of whom are musicians who daily seek work at nearby Mariachi Plaza.

Boyle Hotel 2 – 2 – 2

The ELACC bought the hotel in December 2006, plus four adjacent parcels on East First Street and Boyle Avenue, to create affordable housing and ensure that the mariachis can continue living and working in the neighborhood as it is redeveloped. Two large commercial projects across from the hotel will start once the 1st/Boyle Mariachi Plaza Metro station opens.

The hotel project will also rehabilitate existing vacant, ground floor commercial space and an unused, 1,300-square-foot basement to create more than 4,000 square feet of commercial space. Community space of more than 1,100 square feet and 22 parking spaces will also be added.

Residents displaced by the construction will be provided relocation assistance and will be given first priority to return to the rehabilitated units, with financial assistance if rents are higher than those paid previously.

Besides the CRA/LA assistance, ELACC has received a \$1 million grant from Proposition 1C Transit Oriented Development funds and \$598,000 from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. It plans to seek further financing from various state and city agencies, plus obtain tax credits. ELACC has developed affordable, multi-family and single family developments since 1995 with free financial literacy, first-time homebuyer education and credit counseling services provided to tenants and homebuyers.

About the Adelante Eastside Redevelopment Project

The 2,200-acre Adelante Eastside Redevelopment Project Area is the first redevelopment project area on the City's Eastside. It is one of the newest redevelopment areas in the city, focusing on Boyle Heights and El Sereno. Key objectives for the Project Area include improving living conditions, upgrading public improvements, increasing commercial choices and revitalizing the industrial base while preserving existing neighborhoods and businesses.

About CRA/LA:

CRA/LA (www.crala.org) is a public agency regulated by the State of California and operating within the City of Los Angeles. It attracts private investment into economically depressed communities to eliminate blight, revitalize older neighborhoods, build housing for all income levels and create and retain employment opportunities. CRA/LA manages 32 redevelopment projects areas and three revitalization areas in seven regions: East Valley, West Valley, Hollywood & Central, Downtown, Eastside, South Los Angeles, and the Harbor.

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