

Glendale Historical Society Candidate Questionnaire

1. My favorite Historical building in Glendale is El Miradero, the former residence of Leslie Brand. It is perhaps the most ornate and richly decorated home in Glendale. It is a throwback to the "golden Era" in Los Angeles. The building set the stage for hope and optimism for the future of Glendale.
2. The most pressing historic preservation issue today is the inconsistency in expert opinions on any one property relating to its historic significance. More and more on Council, I am faced with divergent and opposing opinions from historic preservation experts as to the status of a home, or in some cases a commercial building. This makes the job of making the final decision of approving or denying a project extremely difficult. I believe the city should create a short list of historic preservation experts whose opinions will be highly credible, if not outright determinative of the historic status of a structure.
3. A certain level of development must occur in a city. The problem with development is when it takes away a historic resource. Not every craftsman home is a historic resource no matter how quaint it may seem. Those historic resources should be clearly identified by the city before the property is sold to a developer who is intent on demolition and redevelopment. The citywide survey of historic resources must be completed and made public for all wishing to buy or develop in the city to be aware.
4. The ADU law is the single greatest threat to the quality of life for Glendale's neighborhoods, ever! The law is flawed, and wrests local control of communities from the city council. I proposed fighting this law and challenging it in court, but the city attorney warned me that the unintended consequences could be even worse than a modest local ADU ordinance. I am requiring parking for ADUs, including them in the FAR calculations, excluding them entirely from historic district, and preventing any front yard units.
5. I strongly support the increased penalties for illegal and unpermitted work. This has gone on far too long in Glendale and the current penalties serve as no deterrent to the contractor and owners who break the law. The laws regarding permits and construction must be severe enough to scare any thought of unpermitted work away.
6. The issue of mansionization has largely subsided in Glendale, although a few cases arise each year. The way to prevent this is to continue to send additions to the Design Review Board and then let the council serve as the appellate body.

Ara Najarian