

Bernadette D. Soter

Candidate for District A Elected Representative, Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council

Born: Los Angeles California. *Educated:* UCLA, Bachelor of Arts cum laude. *Occupation:* Advertising & Graphic Design agency-owner. *Affiliations:* Los Feliz Improvement Association; Friends of the Los Angeles River; Friends of the Observatory; Sierra Club Angeles Chapter. *Personal:* Married, no children. *Hobbies:* Local history. For the reopening of the downtown Central Library authored *The Light of Learning: An Illustrated History of the Los Angeles Public Library*, (pub. Library Foundation of Los Angeles, 1994) and am currently at work on a history of another century old L.A. institution.

REASON FOR CANDIDACY

GGPNC Board decisions affect all segments of our neighborhood. I will work to help ensure that the advice transmitted to the City by the GGNPC Board reflects the desires and opinions of the community and will encourage the Board to approach matters in a thoughtful manner, verifying each issue's realities and considering the long-term consequences and precedents of their advice.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Since 2004, I have served as Chair of the GGPNC's Parks, River and Open Space Committee (PROS) building an ecumenical group that embraces more than a score of organizations and individuals who are concerned with Griffith Park and L.A. River issues. The PROS Committee has consistently endorsed sustainable policies and continued free use of Griffith Park, for example, helping to turn back plans to build a luxury restaurant with full bar and banquet facilities on a ridge near the Observatory. To ensure that our community is factored into the process, PROS members are monitoring the ongoing planning by multiple agencies to revitalize the L.A. River. In addition to advocating for these defining aspects of our community, the Committee plays a service role. It has adopted the Los Feliz Bridge site on the L.A. River for FoLAR's last three annual clean-ups and is currently developing an anti-graffiti initiative for Griffith Park. In addition to PROS Committee Chair, I serve as the GGPNC's voice on the Griffith Park Draft Master Plan Working Group which is tasked with reviewing and revising the negatively received and highly controversial Draft of the Griffith Park Master Plan released in March 2005.

- In reaction to auto-facilitated crime, congestion and growing damage to the Park, in 1991 I organized a cross-section of park users who successfully lobbied the Recreation & Parks Department to close Griffith Park's Vista Del Valle Road to automobiles. As a result, this portion of Griffith Park and another interior road, Mt. Hollywood Drive, were converted into recreational corridors that are now enjoyed by hikers, joggers, street cyclists, dog-walkers and others seeking a quiet refuge in the city.

- In connection with fundraising and support-building activities for community institutions, I contributed professional services to the Los Feliz Police Center, the Los Feliz Branch Library, the Parks Committee of the Los Feliz Improvement Association, Temple Knesseth Israel of Los Feliz, St. Mary's Academy College Preparatory High School and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The continuation of our neighborhood as a safe, desirable low-density place to live; the preservation and restoration of Griffith Park as a unique natural resource; the preservation of existing open space and the promotion of new open space in this area and all of Northeast Los Angeles; the restoration of the Los Angeles River in Northeast Los Angeles; improved opportunities in and outside the school system for youth to develop their skills and abilities; stepped-up compliance with laws and ordinances that protect the integrity of residential neighborhoods; stepped-up enforcement of ordinances relating to sign blight and other quality of life issues; calming of traffic and mitigation of congestion throughout the area; preservation of the community's distinguishing landmarks and historic features.