



Press Release

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Industry City Council Hires Experts to Assess and Elevate the Workman and Temple Homestead Museum to Become a Regional Destination for Families and Residents *Experts Previously Worked with the Natural History Museum and La Brea Tar Pits*

City of Industry, CA – The Industry City Council approved a professional services agreement with museum experts Karen Wise and Jane Pisano for the review and analysis of operations of the Workman and Temple Homestead Museum.

The City owns the Museum and seeks a complete assessment including recommendations for the Museum to become a regional destination in the San Gabriel Valley. The assessment will include a review of the organization and operations of the Museum, as well as recommendations for future planning and growth.

“The Homestead Museum has long been one of the City’s hidden treasures with many educational opportunities for students and families to enjoy,” said Mayor Mark Radecki. “I am looking forward to Ms. Wise and Ms. Pisano’s assessment and recommendations that will help the Museum chart a path for future growth.”

Karen Wise has over 30 years of professional experience as an archaeologist, educator, museum curator and exhibit leader and spent 25 years working with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLA). Jane Pisano has over 40 years of experience in education and museum administration having served as Dean of USC’s School of Public Administration and former president of NHMLA. Wise and Pisano recently collaborated on the transformation of education, exhibits and new interpretive programs for both the NHMLA and the La Brea Tar Pits. They refocused the museum on its audiences and visitors, developing innovative and engaging exhibits and educational experiences with deep scientific content for visitors of all ages and backgrounds.

“We are looking forward to bringing our combined seven decades of experience to the City of Industry and to the Homestead Museum,” said Karen Wise. “We recognize the rich history that this museum is rooted in and see opportunities to magnify the museum’s reach into the community and the San Gabriel Valley region.”

The Homestead Museum is a six-acre site featuring two historic homes: the Workman House, an 1870s home constructed around an 1840s adobe and La Casa Nueva, a 1920s Spanish Colonial Revival mansion. It is also the site of El Campo Santo, one of the region’s oldest private cemeteries, containing the remains of Pío Pico, the last governor of Mexican California, and many other prominent pioneer families.

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