

## Landmarks Commission Applicant

**Ms Paddy Calistro McAuley**

**Application Date:** 07/19/21

**Reside in Santa Monica:** yes

**If yes, number of years:** 49

**Licensed architect:** no

**Local historian:** yes

**Architect historian:** yes

**California real estate licensee:** no

### INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

**Current or prior service on city boards/commissions:**

I have served on no City Boards or Commissions

**Community activities:**

I am a member of the Santa Monica Conservancy and have been for several years, though I am not an "active member" since I do not serve on its committees (but I pay my dues. Likewise, I have also been a member of the Los Angeles Conservancy and a member of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles. I have served as a secular voice on the Fine Arts Committee of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, and have also participated in events with the California Arts Commission, doing a pro bono project that raised significant funds for the Commission when its budgets were drastically cut. I have also been involved with the Huntington/USC Institute for the Study of California and the West.

**Qualifications, experience, education, and technical or professional requirements:**

I hold an undergraduate degree from UCSanta Barbara in History and Speech, and a Master's Degree in Education from USC. After a career as a journalist/columnist with the Los Angeles Times, and an author (in 1992, LA Inside/Out (viking Press) was my first book about Los Angeles architectural history and a career was born): I became president and publisher of Angel City Press, a company I helped to found 29 years ago. During that time, the company has published four books with historian Ernest Marquez (including Santa Monica Beach: a pictorial history and, most recently, his history of Rancho Boca de Santa Monica, for all of which I have been his direct editor; a history of Santa Monica Pier by James Harris, for which I was his direct editor; the biography of architect John Parkinson by Stephen Gee, for which I was his direct editor; and several books about architecture and culture in Southern California. I have also been the editor of the 6th edition of the Gebhard and Winter's An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles (with its 2300 architectural entires, including two sections on Santa Monica), and most recently, Preserving Los Angeles, by a Los Angeles city planner, Ken Bernstein, a book which has already been celebrated nationally. I also was editor and publisher of Landmark L.A., an early guide that included 800+ (now there are more than 1200) historic/cultural landmarks of Los Angeles written by Jeffrey Herr of the

Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. I am also the editor of a series of books devoted to the works of significant Southern California architects of the 1920s, '30s, and '40s: An upcoming book in the series will feature John Byers. I have also been the publisher of books about other architects and artists such as Judy Baca, who spearheaded and designed the Great Wall of Los Angeles mural project which resulted in the world's longest mural. I edited a book with La Plaza de Cultura in Los Angeles in collaboration with California Historical Society on a history of Latinx murals in Southern California that have been desecrated, and have edited a history of the Chinese in Hollywood films. In all, I have overseen more than 100 books devoted to the history--in many of its niche and its broader aspects--of Southern California. Other books that have covered early Santa Monica history that I have edited include two histories of the Port of Los Angeles and a history of Terminal Island, with a focus on the Japanese fishing village that was forced from Santa Monica Canyon to be re-established at Terminal Island and then relocated to internment camps during World War II. Working all of these books, have given me the perspective of both a general historian and an architectural historian, although my graduate degree is not specific to either. I have also participated in Santa Monica Landmark Commission meetings as an interested observer, and as a supporter of some designations. I have also spoken before the Los Angeles Historic/Cultural Landmark Commission in support of the landmarking of Pascual Marquez Family Cemetery in Santa Monica Canyon, after having been Mr. Marquez's editor.

**Areas of demonstrated expertise:**

My experience in the first 7 categories matches that of any Santa Monica homeowner, and in category 8, my company is a S Corporation, so I understand that type of corporation, though I am certainly no expert..

**Goals:**

My goal in joining the Landmarks Commission would be to bring an editor's objective eye to the commission, while also raising important questions about the fuller meanings of terms such as "historic," "diversity of culture," "cultural heritage," and "significant property." Having attended several meetings, I have observed that these terms are constantly brought up, but it would seem that these are evolving terms that need to be rediscussed both within the Commission and with the public, so everyone understands the importance that must be placed on each.

**Vision:**

My vision is that the Landmark Commission would not only listen to the community speakers who come before it in support of or against the landmarking of specific sites, but also communicate with them and the rest of the community, to fully understand various perspectives. This could help create in deeper communication rather than the dissension that unfortunately sometimes develops.

**Personal Qualities:**

Creativity and innovation are necessary in my daily work, so I feel that my experience speaks to that--books for which I have been responsible have won awards both for content and approach, and have been bestsellers on the LATimes bestseller's list, reviewed in publications such as the LATimes, New York Times, The Atlantic, The New Yorker, etc.. My leadership qualities have been praised when I've worked on committees, my staff has been celebrated, and I have trained numerous interns who have gone on to important positions both in creative and professional fields. I'm proud of my career, and I've learned to appreciate the importance of preservation, as well as its limitations.

**Will you be able to commit the necessary time to perform your duties if appointed to the board?**  
yes

**How did you learn about the vacancy in this board or commission? (select all that apply)**

On the City's website (smgov.net or santamonica.gov)

Word of Mouth- Council or Board/Commission member, City Staff, neighborhood groups, etc.

**BUSINESS INFORMATION**

Occupation: publisher

Business name: Angel City Press

Business address: 2118 Wilshire Blvd. 880

Santa Monica CA 90403

Business phone: 310 395 9982