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Time has come!

Old Fred Mayes Jewelers street clock to be returned with new look

The City of Sacramento is set to return a completely restored Fred Mayes Jewelers street clock to its home at 10th and J streets. A short event to showcase the final assembly of the last remaining pieces and set the time is set for Wednesday, May 2, at 11:30 a.m.

WHAT: An event to mark the return of refurbished mid 20th century Fred Mayes Jewelers street clock to the sidewalk at the corner of 10th and J streets. The clock's time has stood still for some 15 years.

WHO: The team inside and outside the City who contributed: staff who managed the project from the City's Department of Transportation; Greig Best, the citizen and now Executive Director of the Sacramento History Foundation who orchestrated the restoration project in 2008; Vince Angell of the National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors whose members volunteered to oversee work on the time piece; Sacramento Heritage, Inc., co-sponsor; the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, co-sponsor; the Art Foundry & Gallery, Sacramento, hired to do the repairs; and the Community Development Department, former Councilmember Ray Tretheway, the Downtown Sacramento Partnership along with the Economic Development Department and the Center for Sacramento History, who worked on the funding and project plan. Invited guests include the family of Fred Mayes and his widow, Faye Marie Mayes, who donated the street clock to the City of Sacramento.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 2, 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: 10th and J streets

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Clock, continued

WHY: To install and get up and running a new restoration of the old clock. The clock was returned to the period of its historical significance. – the art deco style popular when it was designated as a City historic landmark in June of 1982.

Project Cost and Sponsors

The \$24,000 project was made possible through a \$12,000 Historic Places Grant from the City's Historic Places Fund as recommended by Sacramento Heritage, Inc. and approved by the City Council; \$6,000 in downtown redevelopment tax increment funds; and \$6,000 from federal Community Development Block Grant funds available through the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency. No City general funds are being spent on the project.

Other donors paying for the electronic clock movement include the Mayes family, the National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors, Councilmember Rob Fong, former City Councilmember Ray Tretheway, the Downtown Sacramento Partnership and the Trust for Historic Preservation.

Fast facts

The clock is likely more than 100 years old, although the first clear evidence is a 1924 photo of the clock in its original design in front of 1009 K St., its original location.

The clock on K Street was outside the Wiesen and Monk Jewelers until the business was moved to its current location at 10th and J in 1946. It stood outside the one-time Mayor Art Monk's jewelry store. The jewelry store was purchased by Fred Mayes in 1963. Mayes donated the clock to the City of Sacramento in 1993. Mayes retired in 1998.

The clock's exterior is different than when it left for the foundry 1st June, as historical experts recommended a stainless steel case be added to prevent vandalism and preserve the original parts.

Some of the parts of the refurbished clock are new and others original: The mechanical clock movement has been replaced with a modern electronic movement, which will not require winding. The clock will keep accurate time through GPS and will automatically correct itself after power outages or time changes. The imported Italian neon will highlight the art deco engagement style ring design topped off with an illuminated diamond solitaire.

The restored landmark clock is a small but significant example of the City's commitment to preserve its heritage. This clock, the nearby Citizen Hotel, the Elks Building, and the Sheraton are fine examples of the great architectural history of Sacramento and testament to how the City is building on history. This public/private partnership ensures that this clock will keep us on time for years to come.

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