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CITY OF DOWNEY

# PRESS RELEASE



## Rives Mansion to be Restored

**Downey, CA, June 19, 2013:** The City of Downey's oldest historical landmark is getting a much-needed renovation. The Rives Mansion, built in 1900's, is perhaps Downey's most recognizable treasure.

Ralph Verdugo, owner of LA Hospitality Team (LAHT), recently executed a long-term lease of the historic home and its grounds. DHG is now working to restore the original beauty of the landmark. Mr. Verdugo is a Downey native and current resident. His most recent success was the full restoration of the aforementioned Bank of America office building built in 1911, now home to the Los Angeles Brewing Company.

"The Rives Mansion is considered one of Downey's most unique and historic sites and we are proud to have such a beautiful landmark here in town. Restoring it will help enhance its true value and we are confident that Mr. Verdugo will do an excellent job. It is definitely a true treasure in our community," said Mayor Mario A. Guerra.

LAHT is currently working with the original plans and expert historic renovators to give the home an update that is going to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. LAHT plans to restore and update the entire grounds and build a gazebo with botanical garden in the backyard. They have preliminary plans to use the front yard as an upscale wine garden.

"Goal number one is to restore the mansion and all the buildings on the property so the next generation can appreciate its history. We plan to make it available for school tours during certain days and hours of the week so that the youth can experience it. This property may be zoned for commercial use, but it's a home for all of Downey and I intend to keep it that way," said Verdugo.

In the coming months, LAHT will be submitting a full application to the City for a conditional use permit (C.U.P.) to operate the facility as a steakhouse restaurant and wine garden.

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