# Message from the President of the Friends of Hart Park & Museum

by Laurene Weste

***Dear Friends,***

***It certainly has been an unusual year at Hart Park.  Generally speaking, people are staying well and working hard at staying as normal as possible.  Covid-19 has brought significant hardships to Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation.  Hart Park is now closed on Mondays and Tuesdays to the public due to budget cuts, but are joyfully open Wednesday through Sunday.  The first event casualty was our much-loved Cowboy Festival, and we really thought that we would be able to have an amazing Silents Under the Stars for you.  Unfortunately, due to the restrictions of not being able to aggregate in large numbers, we will sadly not be able to hold this beloved annual event either.  Nancy Gallardo, event chair, Patti Rassmussen, Co-chair, and Laurene Weste, President, were looking forward to hosting this year.  Bill West, E.J. Stevens and Jeff Wheat had been working on the films that were going to be presented as well.  To our wonderfully supportive Patrons and those that won tickets for this year, they will be honored for next year.  We hope that 2021 will bring good health, joy, and looking forward to gathering with all of you!***

***On a happy note, Rachael, our wonderful Animal Care Giver, has been taking great care of our barnyard animals.  Individuals are still able to hike our surrounding trails, and enjoy the outdoors.  We hope that once restrictions are lifted, that the public will be able to visit the Barnyard and the Hart Mansion.  Thanks to all of you with your financial support, we were able to accomplish several tasks that had been on our To-Do List.  We were able to acquire a storage container, dance floor for events, a rail system for hanging artwork, and a digital display of all of our donors at the entrance of Hart Hall.  We were also able to do much-needed repairs of our Gift Shop by replacing the roof and siding to make it watertight, and other structural and electrical repairs.  It now looks beautiful, and fits the historical aesthetics of the park.***

***During this crucial time, Hart Park has served as an extremely beneficial asset to the community allowing the residents to visit the park while adhering to social distancing.  Families have been walking their dogs, hiking the trails, picnicking, and truly enjoying the outdoors.  It is gratifying to me and the board to know that all of you that support the park have allowed us to create a blessed atmosphere for people to relax and enjoy nature.  This has been their local escape from self-quarantining, and has been nurturing for our mental health and well-being.***

***We look forward to seeing everyone soon!  Please stay happy, healthy, and safe!!!***

***See you down the trail...***

***Laurene Weste - Friends of Hart Park - President***