Friends of Balboa Park

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

Leading the Way on Park Improvements

Friends of Balboa Park is known for getting things done. From park enhancements to connecting schoolchildren to the Park’s institutions to advocating for Balboa Park’s long-term sustainability, we make great ideas a reality. Friends has a number of improvement projects currently underway, and I want to acknowledge our dedicated volunteer project leads: Jim Hughes on the restoration of the 1915 Cabrillo Bridge gate houses; Lucy Warren on the park-wide Adopt-A-Plot program; Jack Carpenter on development of elegant new park gateways; Thomas Stepat on the rooftop water harvesting project at Casa de Balboa; and Ken Tranbarger for his tireless work on the Park’s information kiosks. Of course, all of these projects only come to fruition with the vision of our Board of Directors and with the generous backing of our members and supporters – people like you.

Great Events

Our Annual Awards Luncheon is just around the corner (see page 11). This event is our small way of recognizing and saying thanks to special volunteers and organizations throughout Balboa Park. The theme of this year’s event, “Gardens that Roar!”, recognizes and honors the San Diego Zoo during its centennial year in 2016. It’s not commonly known that the Zoo has an extensive horticulture collection and conservation program, and their efforts in preserving rare and endangered plant species from around the world are a centerpiece of our celebration.

The 2016 Twilight Concert series every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 6:30 pm in Spreckels Organ Pavilion provides a variety of music and fun for the whole family. Friends of Balboa Park is proud to be a co-host of this free series of great family programming.

Spring Appeal a Success!

We appreciate your generous donations towards our 2016 Spring Appeal. As we go to press, we have raised over $12,000. These funds will help us continue the important mission of Friends of Balboa Park. Thank you for being a part of our success!

Plaza de Panama

Finally, by now, you’ve likely heard that Friends of Balboa Park recently joined San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, along with Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, Balboa Park Conservancy, the San Diego Foundation, Balboa Park Online Collaborative, and dozens of civic and cultural leaders to support the renewed efforts to address a number of long-standing parking and circulation challenges in the Park (see page 3). After careful deliberation, Friends’ Board of Directors voted to support the Mayor’s plan. This is a complex project so we are pleased to be part of a coalition that will be advised throughout the duration of the project, and our seat at the table will ensure questions and concerns that arise will be effectively addressed. This is an extraordinary opportunity for Balboa Park’s future, and Friends is pleased to have a voice in shaping that future.

John Bolthouse
Executive Director
Plaza de Panama Plan to Address Park Needs

On June 30, 2016, San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer held a press conference in Balboa Park to announce the re-launch of Plaza de Panama, a plan to remove vehicular traffic from the central mesa once and for all. Originally proposed in 2012, the plan will address a number of decades-long challenges in Balboa Park: inadequate parking accommodations for Park patrons, employees and volunteers; and inefficient and unsafe vehicular and pedestrian circulation to and within the Park’s central mesa.

The plan encompasses a number of key features. The space known as Plaza de Panama (the large open area outside the Museum of Art) will be returned to its original 1915 configuration, removing vehicular traffic that currently intermingles with pedestrian foot traffic – a clear safety hazard. In addition, El Prado road starting at the east end of Cabrillo Bridge will be closed to cars, while a new bypass bridge will be built to re-route east-bound vehicles on the Cabrillo Bridge behind the Mingei International Museum towards a new underground parking garage with 2.2 acres of new gardens behind Spreckels Organ Pavilion. In total, the plan will ultimately enable 6.3 acres of car-free parkland to be restored to Balboa Park.

Friends of Balboa Park supports this transformational plan. By acknowledging the evolution of the ever-growing urban environment surrounding the Park, the Plaza de Panama Plan offers the best option for Balboa Park’s future. It represents a practical compromise between the intrinsic needs of the Park’s internal and external stakeholders and preservation of the historic fabric and character of Balboa Park. The vision and implementation of the Plaza de Panama Plan reflects the best ideals of a public-private partnership, bringing together the support of the City of San Diego, the Park’s resident institutions and affinity organizations, the philanthropic community, and citizens.

Historic Bridge Lights Undergoing Restoration

After decades of steady decline in their condition, the historic light standards that line Balboa Park’s Cabrillo Bridge are finally getting the attention they deserve. In May, San Diego’s Park and Recreation Department began the process of restoring all thirty-one of the double-light standards that have been signature features of the beloved bridge connecting Laurel Street into the heart of the Park since 1914.

The first pole was taken down in mid-May and delivered to Gibson & Gibson, a company specializing in historic light restoration. From this first pole, molds will be made to recreate damaged or missing ornamentation; new, more efficient, and longer-lasting LED fixtures will be tested for retrofitting; and the colors replicating the poles’ appearance during the 1935 California Pacific International Exposition will be assessed. The first completed test pole has been approved, and it was reinstalled as a demonstration of how the remaining thirty standards will appear. Plans call for the remainder to be removed, refurbished, and re-installed in groups of six at a time in alternating pairs along the length of the bridge. The budget for the project is estimated at $250,000 and scheduled completion is late 2016.

Friends of Balboa Park is pleased to be a partner on this project with the City of San Diego, Committee of One Hundred, the Balboa Park Conservancy, and the Balboa Park Trust at the San Diego Foundation. Thanks to the generous support of our members and donors, Friends is able to once again effectively collaborate on improvement projects like this one that maintain and restore the extraordinary historic character of Balboa Park.
Water Harvesting Project

This project is intended to capture the water from the HVAC units that are installed on the rooftop of the Casa de Balboa to irrigate Zoro Garden. We have been working closely with the City of San Diego to properly install the water harvesting equipment in respect of the façade of this building. We hope to get this project underway in earnest in 2017.

Thank you to generous donors whom have supported the Waterwise Initiative funding, The Beyer Family Foundation Fund at The San Diego Foundation, The Favrot Fund, Louise Hay, Dorothea Laub, Vi McKinney, and Edward & Ellen Wong.

Gate Houses

The renovation of the historic 1915 gate houses at the west end of the Cabrillo Bridge is almost complete. Progress continues on the roof detail, recreating the historic finials and spires, ornamentation on the eaves, and painting the façade. A ribbon-cutting is scheduled for September 2016 to commemorate the completion of this project.

Adopt-A-Plot Program Recognized by City

Friends of Balboa Park was honored and pleasantly surprised to be awarded the City of San Diego’s Park and Recreation Department “Director’s Game Ball” Award. Friends’ Executive Director John Bolthouse accepted the award on behalf of project lead, Lucy Warren, and all the volunteer leaders of the Adopt-A-Plot Program. The program attributes much of its success to the fact that this was the first time in the city’s history that members of the community have been able to plant in a City park. The program’s overwhelming success has allowed it to be extended through July 2017, and we hope this will open doors for future possibilities to elevate landscaping for everyone to enjoy throughout the Park.

Grant Awarded for Signage Program

Friends of Balboa Park was recently awarded a grant from the County of San Diego via the office of Supervisor Ron Roberts through the County’s Neighborhood Reinvestment Program. This grant will allow Friends to partner with other Park organizations to develop of historical and wayfinding signage to better interpret some of the Park’s historical buildings and replace some directional signs in disrepair.

We extend our sincerest gratitude to Supervisor Roberts and the County of San Diego for their continued support of Balboa Park.
**Friends Gets DEEP in Balboa Park**

Friends of Balboa Park is happy to announce that our new partnership with the Diamond Educational Excellence Partnership (DEEP) will bring in more students throughout the San Diego Unified School District. During each of the first four weeks of August 2016, this pilot program will be bringing in one bus-load of students and their parent/guardians to visit two Balboa Park institutions each trip. Families will get a hands-on learning experience and a chance to explore the museums at no cost.

Schools participating in the DEEP program serve low-income families, 90% or more of students are on a free-lunch program and English is not the primary language spoken at home. Friends looks forward to collaborating with these educators who are going above and beyond to get these students the help they need to be successful in school and in life.

Special thanks go to the participating institutions for this pilot program: **Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, San Diego Air & Space Museum, San Diego History Center, Timken Museum of Art, the San Diego Natural History Museum, Hall of Champions, and Mingei International Museum**. These fellow partners are offering free admission as part of the DEEP Pilot Program, and Friends of Balboa Park will sponsor the bus expense from our School Field Trip Funding Program.

These trips made possible by generous donations toward the Friends of Balboa Park School Field Trip Program.

**Gift Expands Field Trips**

Earlier this year, Friends of Balboa Park received a generous donation from the Competitor Group, organizers of the Rock ‘N’ Roll Marathon Series, supporting our School Field Trip Program. **Bruce Walton**, decided that Friends of Balboa Park would be a fit for his organization’s contribution. What better way to support the local community than to support school field trips and extend the classroom with the cultural enrichment programs Balboa Park museums and institutions have to offer. With this support, we were able to serve 756 students from 8 different schools throughout San Diego County for the 2015-2016 school year.

We’re pleased to announce that the Competitor Group has renewed their sponsorship for the School Field Trip Program 2016-2017 school year! On behalf of students throughout San Diego County, we thank Competetor Group and Mr. Walton for supporting our efforts to bring students in to Balboa Park.

**Spreckels Organ Again World’s Largest Outdoor Organ**

In 2016, the Spreckels Organ reclaimed its title of “World’s Largest Outdoor Organ”. With all the excitement, the Spreckels Organ Society held a procession to commemorate this celebration. Friends of Balboa Park would like to extend a deeply appreciated thank you to **George Hardy**, Past President of the Spreckels Organ Society, for sponsoring the updates to the historical sign by the west entrance of the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, to reflect the reclamation of the title.
Thank you to the generous donors whom have given between 2/15/2016 through 6/15/2016

$20,000 and above
Lawrence Y. True Memorial Fund at The San Diego Foundation in support of Trees for Health

$5,000 - $9,999
Mary Kirsch in support of the Dedicated Bench Pilot Program
Virginia Wofford in support of the Dedicated Bench Pilot Program

$1,000 - $4,999
Competitor Group Inc./ Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon in support of the School Field Trip Program
Stephen R. Dows Memorial Fund at The San Diego Foundation in support of Trees for Health
Anne Evans
Archie and Joan Freitas
Al Frost
Ida Louise McCalvin Botanical Gardens Easter Fund at The San Diego Foundation in support of the Easter Lily Display

$250 – $499
Cheyney Family Fund at The San Diego Foundation
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Mr. and Mrs. Phil Harry in support of the School Field Trip Program
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Josephine Bell in support of the Friends of Balboa Park Endowment Fund
Wayne Bennett
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Mary F. Bridge
Ed and Linda Canada in support of Arbor Day in Balboa Park

Ken and Sibby Curtis in support of the Friends of Balboa Park Endowment Fund
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$99 and below
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Donations are accepted in memory of a family member or friend and will be listed here. Amounts are not shown, and donor acknowledgement cards are mailed to the family members as directed by the donor.
Endowment Fund Honor Roll

A special thank you to all those who donated in support of the Endowment Fund.

$1,500,000 & above
Dorothea Laub

$200,000 - $299,999
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Jim and Carmen Hughes

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Frederick and Patricia Tellam
Ann Thompson
Jean Thompson
Gretchen Vik and Larry Clapper
Tom and Cottie Volle
Jim and Barbara Wilson
Guy and Britt Zeller
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Give now
Help ensure the long-term sustainability of Friends of Balboa Park with a gift to the endowment. Please contact info@friendsofbalboapark.org or call (619)232-2282
Balboa Park Garden Party 2016

Friends of Balboa Park is proud to have been co-host of the second annual Balboa Park Garden Party that took place Saturday, May 28, 2016. The day was filled with activities for all to enjoy.

The day kicked off with a Kids’ Floral Wagon Parade down El Prado, where children, families, and friends decorated small wagons to display their creativity with floral themes. The horticulture clubs had a great time with park visitors and had hands-on activities for kids of all ages. The day featured special ‘Garden Talks’ with Master Gardeners and local landscapers about popular topics and offered resources and solutions.

This year was the first time we combined the Friends of Balboa Park’s Annual Butterfly Release in Zoro Garden with the partnership of the San Diego Floral Association for the Garden Party. We released 400 live Painted Lady Butterflies with the help of families, kids, the Hullabaloo Band and Brandon Cruz Music.

We want to thank the Volunteers whom dedicated their time to this event; Andrea Albert, Mariana Balestreri, Cynthia Boucher, Deb Brown, Dee Brown, Rafael Garcia, Kimi Hammonds, Kathy Hunyor, Gina Maklary, Mari McEachern, Ron McEachern, Karen Garcia Raines, Katherine Ross, Aaron Salsman, and Jeanette Sandoval. We also thank the dedicated members of our Board of Directors who assisted with various aspects of the event and shared the day’s festivities with us. Thank you to all who made the Balboa Park Garden Party 2016 possible and fun!

MORE WAYS TO GIVE

Balboa Park Trail Maps
Trail maps are available for purchase at the Balboa Park Visitor’s Center during their regular business hours for a $5 donation. These maps display a variety of designated trails throughout the Par. Even local San Diegans that live near the park were stunned to have been able to explore someplace new, with the guidance of this map.

Amazon Smile Foundation
A portion of your eligible purchases on Amazon can be donated to Friends of Balboa Park. Next time you’re online, go to www.smile.amazon.com, log in per usual, and choose to donate to Friends of Balboa Park. It’s that easy. It’s at no extra cost to you, you utilize the convenience of Amazon, and you’re supporting a local non-profit organization. There’s nothing to lose! Your purchases help make a difference in Balboa Park.
"Rotarians at Work Day" in Balboa Park

Rotary is an international nonprofit organization that has various branches and ‘clubs’ that are constantly on the lookout for worthy organizations that they can actively support. Every year, on the last Saturday of April, Rotarians nationwide volunteer to give back to the community. This year, there were three groups in Balboa Park!

San Diego Rotary had more than 100 volunteers throughout Balboa Park. Their efforts can be seen in the Balboa Park Nursery, landscape around the San Diego Veteran’s Museum, and the Animal Enhancement Volunteer Center at the San Diego Zoo.

The Downtown Breakfast Rotary Club had about 20 volunteers in Zoro Garden of Balboa Park. This group added more than 460 plants in preparation of the upcoming butterfly season.

Uptown Rotary Club had nine members and family members tending to the Sefton Plaza’s Four Corners at the intersection of Balboa Drive and El Prado. They removed debris and deadheaded the rose bushes.

Friends Board

Member Honored

In April 2016, our very own Immediate Past Chair, Ann E. Wilson, was awarded the Mayoral Volunteer Recognition Award for her hundreds of volunteer hours in Balboa Park.

Thank you, Ann, for your gift of time and talent to preserve Balboa Park for future generations.

Dedicate A Bench in Balboa Park

Benches are available for dedication to a loved one. There are limited quantities in pre-designated locations on the west side of Balboa Park. Donations will cover the lifetime maintenance of the bench and a small plaque affixed to the back of the bench.

Botanical Building Floral Displays

Friends of Balboa Park has assisted the Park and Recreation Department over the past several years with the various Botanical Building Floral Displays with generous donations from our members. Let us know if you would like to help ensure the seasonal floral displays continue.

For more information, please contact Leslie@FriendsOfBalboaPark.org or call our office at (619) 232-2282.

Exploring the San Diego History Center Archives

History Center Archive research is all about the excitement of history; the many stories waiting to be told, old maps, photographs from previous centuries. It’s all quite an adventure. And, as you will discover, each archival collection holds a hidden treasure. Of course, the SDHS Research Center is no different. Indeed, not long ago, something very exciting was discovered there, an item you will undoubtedly wish to see for yourself. So, join us online for an enlightening interview with Archivist Jane Kenealy, at www.friendsofbalboapark.org. Here, you can learn about the collection and discover its hidden treasure. See you online!

Park Ranger Updates and Events:

We invite you to join us for our Tuesday and Sunday walking tours, departing at 11am from the Visitor Information Center. The ranger will delight you with stories and information about the history, architecture and botanical wonders of the park. Wear comfortable shoes and prepare for an exciting excursion!

In August, I will conduct Painting with Words, a creative writing workshop for those who love art and nature. Email me at apalmer@sandiego.gov for details. The workshop is part of Balboa Park Educational Programs and Services. It’s free, so make sure to register as soon as the date is announced. See you there!

A.M. Palmer has been a dedicated Park Ranger since 2007.
Past Events

On Friday, April 29, 2016, Friends of Balboa Park celebrated Arbor Day in Balboa Park near the Pepper Grove Playground. This tradition has been hosted by Friends over the past nine years by planting a new grove of trees in the Park to signify the importance of trees in our environment. With the help of 80 second graders from Albert Einstein Academy Charter Elementary School and several tree donors, we all helped plant six new Ginkgo biloba and eight Wollemi Pines, expanding the number of plant species in Balboa Park.

Park Blvd Ribbon-Cutting

On April 6, 2016, Friends of Balboa Park commemorated the completion of the Park Blvd. Median Project with a ribbon-cutting. Councilmember Todd Gloria along with several City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department leaders joined us for this celebration at the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden in Balboa Park. The renovations made to the medians will be saving 8-12 hours of maintenance labor per week, a minimum of 500,000 gallons of water, and energy each year, plus it’s much more visually appealing along Park Blvd.

2016 Tree Donors & Honorees:

Shannon Collins in honor of Baby Collins
Kim Duclo in honor of Jack Duclo’s 90th Birthday
In memory of Helen Knight
Nicholas & Mary Berkuta
David & Ellen Loretta
Clyde & Kathleen Fixmer
David & Audrey Munio
Jack & Nancy Forehand
Thomas & Roseanne Rosa
Lynda Franzen
Gregory & Laurie Smith
Charles & Penny Hill
Terry & Esther Sneed
Robert Holst
Donald Voss
Daniel & Christina Hom
T & L W

Shay McMinn in honor of the Atwell Family
Joanie Pray in memory of Mariam Morad
San Diego Zoo Global in honor of the San Diego Zoo Centennial Celebration
The Seirus Family in memory of Dave Halacy
Stephen White in memory of Carol A. White

Event Supporters:

Edgar and Linda Canada
Scott and Nicole Cohen
for the donation of Coastal Live Oak Saplings
Stevan Power
Dick and Johanna Seignious
Our Annual Awards Luncheon will be Tuesday, October 18th, 2016
Honoring San Diego Zoo Global and 5 Inspirational Park Volunteers

Receiption · 11:00 am – Noon
Luncheon & Program · Noon – 1:30 pm
The Balboa Park Club

Please join us as we honor the San Diego Zoo for its tremendous contribution to San Diego and to worldwide conservation efforts for both plants and animals. We will also be recognizing dedicated volunteers and leaders who have made significant contributions to Balboa Park and its institutions.

Thank You To Our 2016 Sponsors
American Corporate Sedan and Limousine
Jim and Carmen Hughes

Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities are now available.
For more information and to receive an invitation, please contact our office.

Email: Leslie@friendsofbalboapark.org     Telephone: (619) 232.2282
www.friendsofbalboapark.org/events/annual-awards-luncheon
2016 EVENTS

TWILIGHT IN THE PARK
Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday » 6:30-7:30 pm
Spreckels Organ Pavilion
In partnership with the City of San Diego’s Park & Recreation Department

BIRD PARK CONCERT
8/6/2016 » 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Bird Park
In partnership with the North Park Community Business Association

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
8/16/2016 » 5:30 pm
(.until we run out of ice cream)
Spreckels Organ Pavilion
In partnership with the City of San Diego’s Park & Recreation Department

16TH ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON
10/18/2016 » 11am
Balboa Park Club

DECEMBER NIGHTS
12/2/2016 – 12/3/2016 throughout Balboa Park

POINSETTIA PARTY
12/8/2016 » 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Botanical Building.
RSVP requested.