Our hearts. They are what we put into our families, our friends, our professions, our beliefs, our passions. It is what we at Friends of Balboa Park put into the park every day, and our hearts are aching for our community right now.

The struggle to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impact on society continues, and Friends of Balboa Park is not immune. With the park’s public closure since late March, our advocacy efforts for Balboa Park are being re-tooled almost daily. As with other park organizations, we have begun streamlining our operations. Our slate of capital improvement projects, most of which had been underway prior to the park closure, are currently suspended. Necessarily, the Balboa Park Carousel has been shuttered. Our annual offerings of springtime community events have been cancelled or postponed. Indeed, the months ahead will be extremely challenging for us all.

But make no mistake: We shall endure.

The Board of Directors is determined to see that Friends of Balboa Park emerges from this unprecedented global crisis as a strong and even more vibrant organization. Even as we work from home, we are reminded of the vital importance that Balboa Park plays in our lives, and our Board, volunteers and staff are channeling our collective energy into positive collaborations behind the scenes, determined to continue plans for park enhancements and community programs. We remain committed to all who love Balboa Park and believe in our mission.

Our nonprofit organization may come out of this looking different. We may be smaller, or more nimble, or our perspectives and priorities may change…but we will be stronger.

Our spirit of purpose – to make a positive and meaningful difference for Balboa Park – will not waver. After this crisis has passed, we will love the park like never before.

Your support is needed now more than ever. If you are looking for a way to help us endure through this challenging time, please consider becoming a member, making a contribution to our numerous projects, or sponsoring a future event.

Someday, Balboa Park will again be open to you and your families, serving as our community’s center for cultural and recreational enrichment, and offering the promise of joy and memories of a lifetime. The park will be here for you – and with your support during these troubling times, Friends of Balboa Park will be there to welcome you back.

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Friends is fortunate to benefit from a talented and dedicated Board of Directors that bring tremendous value to our mission. We’re pleased to announce the Officers for the 2020 term who assumed office in January.

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Chair

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Vice Chair

Allison Soares
Treasurer

Doug Kerner
Secretary

George D. Hardy
Immediate Past Chair

Betty Peabody
Founder

Reflections
A few memorable highlights in recent months

Emerging Young Leaders of Balboa Park
Friends recently hosted all past recipients of the “Betty Peabody Emerging Young Leaders of Balboa Park” Award – the first time all four had been together. The award’s namesake – Friends’ founder Betty Peabody – hosted the gathering, emphasizing what the leadership of these young professionals means to Balboa Park’s future. A surprise announcement was also made that all award recipients were being granted honorary membership in the “Leaders 2020” program at the University of San Diego (USD) School of Leadership and Education Sciences.

Friends Hosts Golden Hill Community Tour
Many do not realize that parts of Balboa Park extend into Golden Hill, and that the oldest rustic style arts and crafts inglenook was built in 1907 by esteemed American architect Henry Lord Gay. This, along with much more about the historical significance of the Golden Hill Grotto, was shared with the Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (CDC) on October 19, 2019, with a special presentation about Friends’ efforts in that neighborhood. A big thank you to Ranger Kim Duclo and park historian Nancy Carol Carter for sharing their knowledge about this unique corner of San Diego.

From (L) to (R): John Bolthouse, Friends Executive Director; Jennifer Padilla, San Diego Natural History Museum (2016 recipient); Diana Benavidez, Save Starlight and Girl Scouts San Diego (2018); Betty Peabody, Friends founder; Ira Bauer-Spector, San Diego Civic Youth Ballet (2017); Brianna Mirabile, San Diego Museum of Man (2019); Emily Young, Executive Director of The Nonprofit Institute at USD
Sally Hixson
A current KPBS reporter and daughter of former Balboa Park Carousel owner Virgina Long, Sally’s love of the Carousel runs deep in the family. She has spent most of her life around the Carousel, and when it was acquired by Friends of Balboa Park in 2017, Sally began volunteering with restoration efforts on the rides. Friends is grateful for Sally’s steady hands and creative ideas to restore the rides to their former glory.

“As a kid, I used to watch my grandfather (Clarence Wilcken) and my mother carefully painting the animals on the Carousel. I so wanted to join in but was only allowed to paint the silver chains that rim the Carousel. As a teenager, I worked alongside Carousel Manager Bill Brown in the 1970s, and he first tested me on the orange monarch butterfly (on the Kiddie Ride) when I started volunteering. I guess I did alright as I was then allowed to paint the Uncle Sam chariot! I can still hear my grandpa telling me to ‘stay in the lines’.”

Deborah Mullins
Deborah has been helping Friends staff monitor and report maintenance needs of the five information kiosks across Balboa Park since early 2019. She also helps assess needs for the dedicated tree and bench programs.

“Balboa Park was one of the main reasons I chose to retire in San Diego. Over the course of many visits, I found it always beautiful and lively. The venues and activities can be enjoyed by all ages and interests. Balboa Park is a jewel of the city, so I wanted to be involved in helping it remain a special place. My experience at Friends of Balboa Park has only strengthened my appreciation of what the park offers to its visitors.”
New SDPD Patrol Vehicle in Balboa Park

The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Polaris is pedal to the metal in Balboa Park! The vehicle has been instrumental in maintaining public safety and security in the unprecedented closure of Balboa Park per the state and county guidelines.

Friends recently asked its park partners and the community to help fund a law enforcement Polaris off-road vehicle for SDPD, dedicated for use in Balboa Park, and you all answered in a big way! We far exceeded our fundraising goal, raising more than $50,000. All surplus funds are exclusively earmarked to address safety and security needs in Balboa Park.

“This is community policing at its finest,” said Police Chief David Nisleit. “SDPD had a need for an all-terrain vehicle to provide services in Balboa Park. Friends of Balboa Park and Las Patronas stepped forward with funding to allow the San Diego Police Foundation to purchase this vehicle for us. Thank you!”

The specialty vehicle provides police officers the ability for wider and quicker coverage of their patrol of the park’s 1,200 acres, especially in canyons, narrow corridors around museums, and other hard-to-reach areas of the park. Chief Nisleit has indicated the vehicle will be used exclusively for SDPD’s Balboa Park “beat.”

We are grateful to our partner in this endeavor, the San Diego Police Foundation, along with major donors The San Diego Foundation, San Diego Zoo Global and Las Patronas. We also thank numerous fellow institutions throughout Balboa Park that made significant contributions, along with many individuals who supported this effort.

Historic Wall Sconce Restoration

Located at the foot of the California Tower in the Plaza de California are historic wall sconces that have illuminated the patio since 1915. Currently, the sconces are faded and corroded, needing paint, wire replacement, retrofitting to energy-efficient LED lighting, and replacement “acorn” globes for historical accuracy. In October 2019, the first three of 23 sconces were restored with one re-installed with a temporary globe to gain a better understanding of what is needed. Since then, the project has been on hold due to the California Tower retrofit and the Park’s closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic but has given us the opportunity to secure reproductions of the original “acorn” style globes and we will soon be back on track (replacing the temporary one shown here). The light restorations will be phased so the space will not be all dark all at once.

Special thanks to local preservation architect and Friends Board Chair David Marshall of Heritage Architecture & Planning for his volunteer leadership of this effort, as well as to the project’s donors (see page 2).
Palm Canyon Footbridge Enhancements

In January, Friends installed 23 new, energy efficient LED lights across the upper level of the Palm Canyon pedestrian bridge. The previously dimly-lit bridge connects the Alcazar Garden parking lot to the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, and is a frequent pathway for many, particularly patrons of The Old Globe’s evening productions. The next phase of the project will be replacement of the planks on the upper level as soon as the park re-opens. The project, which now enhances the ambiance and safety for visitors, was fully funded by longtime Friends donor Dorothea Laub. We are grateful to Dorothea, and so many others who recognize a need in the park and help us address it for the whole community to enjoy!

Growing Closer to Goal for Moreton Bay Fig Tree

Friends has raised more than three-quarters of its approximately $450,000 goal to install new, enhanced fencing and a viewing platform around part of the beloved giant Moreton Bay Fig tree, to enhance the visitor experience at the tree and ensure its preservation for years to come.

The iconic arboreal, located between the San Diego Natural History Museum and Spanish Village Art Center, is the third largest of its kind in California, measuring at a staggering 78 feet tall. With this improvement, visitors would be able to get closer to the tree to appreciate its magnificent canopy without damaging its roots. The viewing platform also will double as an intimate outdoor space for live performances. Additionally, there will be areas on the platform for informational signage about the tree’s history and botanical information.

Friends is grateful to the incredible efforts of renowned San Diego landscape architect and Friends Board member Pat Caughey of Wimmer Yamada & Caughey. Pat’s leadership and diligence on this project are bringing this project to fruition after nearly three years and an estimated $50,000 of pro bono professional services. Let Pat’s dedication inspire you to help us reach our goal! Make a tax-deductible donation today at friendsofbalboapark.org/moreton-bay-fig-tree-project.

Special thanks to the William E. Cole Family Foundation for supporting the Moreton Bay Fig Tree project. (L) to (R): Friends Executive Director John Bolthouse; Foundation trustees Pamela Rice, Kimberly Cole, Mike Gable, and Greg Hoover; and Project Lead Pat Caughey.
A Conversation with Parks and Recreation Department Director
Andy Field

Andy Field was named Director of the Parks and Recreation Department in November 2019.
What does it mean to you to be the newly appointed Director of the City of San Diego Parks & Recreation Department?

Having joined the department in 2002, I was immediately drawn to the vibrant employee culture and our staff’s positive daily interactions with the public. As director, my goal is to continue to positively serve the community by supporting our employees and ensuring residents, from young children to seniors, are utilizing and enjoying our city parks, facilities and programming.

What do you love most about Balboa Park?

In all my years since moving to San Diego in 1995, Balboa Park has been a constant source of beauty, discovery and fun! From the pomegranate trees hiding in plain sight, the wonderful trails in Florida Canyon, the exhibits at the Museum of Art, and reliving my childhood playing some of my favorite arcade video games at the Fleet Science Center (without having to spend a single quarter!), the park has brought me and my family so many wonderful memories.

What are your goals for the park during your tenure as Parks & Recreation Director?

With limited financial resources available, it is critical to find staff committed to the Parks and Recreation Department’s goal of providing healthy, sustainable and enriching environments for all. That starts by making this the best department in the city to work for. With proper staff training, rewarding and recognizing excellent performance, bringing a heart of service to our work and focusing on making our parks better, we can make our department one of the best in the country. While I also want to increase the number of spaces in the park for children to play, I want to cultivate interest in visiting the park’s many cultural institutions. Finally, it is the goal of everyone that we preserve this amazing place for future generations. I recognize we must address the deferred infrastructure needs, but this can’t be done without the generous time, talent and treasure from the many stakeholder groups, including Friends of Balboa Park.

What would you like the public to know about Balboa Park that they may not be aware of?

Our wonderful park rangers are excellent resources for information about the park. In fact, Ranger Kim Duclo, who serves as our unofficial resident historian, has amassed an incredible treasure trove of Balboa Park memorabilia since the park was established in 1868. Balboa Park is about its people, and Ranger Kim personifies the greatness of this place.

How can the public support the Parks & Recreation Department?

Public support is paramount to maintaining our parks. If you want to help, consider becoming a volunteer; support one or more of the many park stakeholder groups by giving of your time, talent, and treasure; and let others know of the importance Balboa Park has for our community and how parks make lives better!

What role has Friends of Balboa Park played in your efforts?

We are very lucky to have so many stakeholders eager to make Balboa Park a better place. Friends of Balboa Park has been an invaluable partner on so many initiatives. The park would be a much different place without the support and advocacy of “our Friends,” and I can’t imagine our department being able to excel without them.

To read the full interview, visit friendsofbalboapark.org/news.
Friends of Balboa Park has just renewed its partnership with the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department to serve as the official administrator of the Dedicated Bench Program in Balboa Park. A pilot program was initiated in 2014 with overwhelming interest, and Friends determined there was an opportunity to resolve multiple needs with one initiative. Through this program, community members can commemorate loved ones and/or significant milestones with a bench that provides seating along extended pathways. All the proceeds from every bench dedication go into a fund to be used exclusively for maintenance in Balboa Park.

To learn more about dedicating a bench, visit friendsofbalboapark.org/dedicate-a-bench or email support@friendsofbalboapark.org.

The newest addition to Friends’ Park Landmark Signage program soon to be installed, shares the history and significance of the Golden Hill Fountain Grotto (shown in images at left). Located in a sunken garden in Golden Hill Park, the grotto was constructed in 1908 and believed to be one of Balboa Park’s first decorative features. Special thanks to the County of San Diego and George Hardy for their contributions to this program, making it possible to share the history of Balboa Park with the community.
Several studies have revealed what philanthropists have known all along: kindness and volunteerism not only help the community, but also provide fulfillment to the individual giving of their time. Especially during unprecedented times like these, showing kindness and giving back is needed in every aspect of our society.

Friends is grateful to count over 250 volunteers who have helped our organization thrive in recent years. With a small staff and part-time consultants, we rely heavily on volunteers to fill the gaps, from our volunteer Board of Directors to our booth volunteers at December Nights to those who help raise funds such as the $3 million Capital Campaign for the Balboa Park Carousel.

We realize time is the most precious commodity there is, and with thousands of worthwhile organizations, both in Balboa Park and throughout our region, we are honored that so many choose to spend their time with us. The value it brings to Friends of Balboa Park is immeasurable. Thank you to the many helping hands that help keep us going.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with Friends, call (619) 232-2282 or visit our website at friendsofbalboapark.org/volunteer/.

Advocate For The Crown Jewel

The City of San Diego is in its annual budget development season. We urge all Balboa Park supporters to contact the Mayor and your City Councilmember to express your support for more investment in Balboa Park, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The city budget can fund major improvements throughout the park, and constituent advocacy is imperative to our elected officials. Join us in our efforts to champion Balboa Park by reaching out to your elected representative today!
In 2017, Friends began a $3 million, multi-year fundraising campaign to acquire and restore the historic Balboa Park Carousel. Thanks to the community’s generosity, we are pleased to have just surpassed the $2 million mark. There’s still a ways to go to reach our next restoration milestone! Please consider a donation today and help preserve one of the park’s most beloved icons.

**$50+ Donation**

Donations of $50 or more to the Carousel Capital Campaign include a complimentary Friends of Balboa Park annual membership!
Sponsor a Ride

Individual rides on the Carousel or adjacent Kiddie Ride are available for sponsorship at various levels. Included with this sponsorship is the opportunity to name your ride and recognition on the Carousel itself.

For a list of animals available to sponsor, visit https://friendsofbalboapark.org/balboa-park-carousel-donate/

Volunteer

Learn how we care for this historic antique by working alongside Carousel Manager Bill Brown, who has been employed by the carousel for over 48 years. Volunteer opportunities are posted monthly on our website.

Coins for the Carousel

Fill bank boxes with coins and dollars, and return them to the Carousel to collect 10 complimentary ride tickets that never expire. Great for kids and grandkids!
Work has begun to apply for historic designation of the Balboa Park Carousel at the local level. The prestige of the designation will recognize the iconic Carousel for its place in San Diego history, and qualify Friends to apply for additional funding sources to enhance and preserve the site. We are grateful to the generous support of Al and Kathleen Steele for fully underwriting this process. We also extend our thanks to Heritage Architecture & Planning for their leadership in this important effort.

Carousel Restoration Update

Thanks to the many who have contributed to the Carousel Capital Campaign, Friends has been able to not only complete the purchase of the Carousel from the previous owner, but has initiated numerous enhancements to the Carousel and Kiddie Ride. Projects include ride restorations, hardware upgrades, and much more.
Ride Restorations
There are two ride restorations currently in progress: the frog in the red suit (nicknamed “Pina & Chuy”) and the armored horse (“Spike”). Under the direction of Carousel Manager Bill Brown, the restorations are being assisted by volunteers Sally Hixson, Tom Threinen, and Ann Wilson. Stop by and see the transformations in the coming months!

The Sea Creature
Sponsorship Opportunity
This Sea Creature is the only mythical ride on the Balboa Park Carousel, and is one of only a few original examples of its kind in the country. Sponsor this fantastical creature today!
Upcoming Events

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, several events have been postponed to a future date TBD. Depending on events forthcoming, we will evaluate whether to postpone additional events.

Please visit our website and social media channels for the most current information on events.

Sponsorships for key Friends of Balboa Park events are available.
Contact Events Coordinator Jill Penyak at (619) 232-2282 or events@friendsofbalboapark.org for details.

**APRIL**

**Arbor Day In Balboa Park 2020**
Grove of 10 dedicated trees to be planted off Park Blvd.
FREE ENTRANCE

ベンチメント CANCELED

場所: Park Blvd. (Adjacent to The Fleet Science Center)

Trees are not only a vital part of the global ecosystem, but also in Balboa Park’s 1,200 acres. Friends helps maintain the park’s tree population by partnering with the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department on the Tree Dedication Program. (friendsofbalboapark.org/dedicate-a-tree).

**MAY**

**Annual Butterfly Release**
Learn about the butterfly life cycle, habitats, and pollinator-friendly plants at this annual springtime event
FREE ENTRANCE

ベンチメント CANCELED

場所: Zoro Garden

Since 2008, Friends of Balboa Park has been celebrating spring with our Annual Butterfly Release, bringing in 400 Painted Lady butterflies into the garden to encourage pollination in Balboa Park. In 2010, Zoro Garden was renamed the “Butterfly Garden,” a habitat where caterpillars can transform into butterflies.

**JULY**

**4th Annual National Carousel Day**
Children’s activities, music, live entertainment, and free carousel rides
FREE ENTRANCE

場所: Balboa Park Carousel

Since Friends’ purchase of the historic Balboa Park Carousel in 2017, we have been celebrating National Carousel Day with a community event that includes free Carousel rides! This day of family-friendly fun also supports our $3 million fundraising campaign to restore the Carousel.

**AUGUST**

**Annual Ice Cream Social**
Spreckels Summer Concert attendees receive free ice cream, sponsored by Friends of Balboa Park
FREE ENTRANCE

場所: Spreckels Organ Pavilion

August 6 Thursday | 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
In partnership with the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, Friends facilitates Seasonal Floral Displays in the Botanical Building throughout the year. The Poinsettia is the most prominent, on display from mid-December through early January. Donors and Friends are invited to join us for a hosted reception.

**Botanical Building**  
**December 10** Thursday | **3 p.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Poinsettia Celebration**  
Celebrate holiday festivities with the poinsettia seasonal floral display  
**FREE (for members & donors)**

Friends’ largest event of the year honors outstanding contributions by organizations, employees, and volunteers in Balboa Park. This year, Friends will honor the Japanese Friendship Garden with the Millennium Award, presented to individuals and/or organizations that have made important long-term contributions to Balboa Park. The park’s beloved Ranger Kim Duclo will also be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The luncheon is one of Balboa Park’s preeminent events, bringing together hundreds of distinguished and dedicated supporters.

Once again, Friends is honored to have Kristi Pieper and Julie Cowan Novak as co-chairs of the 2020 event committee. Interested in getting involved? Contact events@friendsofbalbapark.org

**Balboa Park Carousel**  
**October 31** Saturday | **11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Balboa Park Halloween Family Day**  
Children 12 and under dressed in costume will receive one FREE ride on the carousel and a special treat

**Veteran’s Day at the Carousel**  
In appreciation of our military families and veterans  
FREE Carousel rides for military families, veterans (w/valid ID)

In partnership with the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, Friends facilitates Seasonal Floral Displays in the Botanical Building throughout the year. The Poinsettia is the most prominent, on display from mid-December through early January. Donors and Friends are invited to join us for a hosted reception.

**Poinsettia Celebration**  
Celebrate holiday festivities with the poinsettia seasonal floral display  
**FREE (for members & donors)**

**November 11** Wednesday | **11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Balboa Park Carousel**
$1,000,000
William and Donna Steen
(in-kind)

$200,000 +
Dorothea Laub
J. W. Sefton Foundation

$100,000 - $199,999
Tom and Jo Hazard
Legler Benbough Foundation
Robert and Andrea Peach
Carole Sachs
Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation

$50,000 - $99,999
Bessemer National Gift Fund
Cohn Family Trust
Peter LaDow
Kathy Lazzaro
San Diego Woman's Club

$25,000 - $49,999
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Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation
James and Joy Furby
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The Parker Foundation
Darlene Marcos Shiley
Al and Kathleen Steele
The Colonel Frank C. Wood Memorial Fund at The San Diego Foundation

$15,000 - $24,999
Balboa Park Conservancy
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Jim and Carmen Hughes
Mike and Marilyn Kelley
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Harley Sefton
Two Rivers Strategies (in-kind)

$5,000 - $9,999
Art Pratt Foundation of Old Mission Rotary Club
Ben and Nicole Clay
The Ed & Mary Fletcher Family Fund at The San Diego Foundation
John Garbaczewski
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Richard and Stephanie Couatts
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Arthur Everett
Andy Fichthorn
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Lucy Warren

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