

Park & Restoration

The newsletter of the Balboa Park Committee of 100

Working to preserve Balboa Park's historic architecture, gardens and public spaces since 1967.

balboaparkcommitteeof100.org

Fall 2024



The Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries at the 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition include a bas-relief by artist Arturo Eneim over the entrance and elaborate decoration overseen by expo art director Juan Larrinaga. The elements were fabricated quickly out of wallboard and removed soon after the expo.

Photo: C100

The Muni Gym Restoration: From Concept to Completion

By **Robert Thiele**, Project Architect

By the time that the California-Pacific International Exposition opened on May 29, 1935, hundreds of workers had put in round-the-clock shifts for a frantic seven months to plan, design, build, coordinate, decorate, and otherwise transform Balboa Park's Central Mesa. Down to the last colored light bulb, it was done in time for opening day.

The expo's supervising architect, Richard Requa, writes in his 1937 book, *Inside Lights on the Building of San Diego's Exposition*, about artistic director Juan Larrinaga's time-saving choice of wallboard for exterior decoration of the Palisades buildings "The great plaque above the

"What seemed mind boggling and extreme is now done and being molded for permanent display in cement, bronze and steel. Intoxicatingly fun business."

— Michael Matson, Bellagio Precast

...continues on page 6

FEATURING

2 President's Message
3 State of Balboa Park 2024
4 Palisades Restorations Continue

7 Connecting Neighbors
8 SD Museum of Art West Wing
10 Bay to Park Paseo: An update
10 Annual Meeting: Oct. 7

11 Betsey Marek Frankel
11 Digital and Design Services to C100
12 Muni Gym: Final Donor Appeal

President's message



What tip to Mayor Todd Gloria for highlighting C100's Municipal Gym project (along with other recent park improvements) in his recent "State of the Park" speech, an occasion brightened by the mayor's presentation of a Key to Balboa Park

to state Senator Toni Atkins, a one-time City Council representative for Balboa Park – who has kept the needs of Balboa Park prominently on her agenda.

I hope that San Diego city residents – who share a deep appreciation for the park – will vote Nov. 5 to support a sales tax boost of one percentage point to generate revenue the city needs to keep up operations and to upgrade infrastructure. It's never popular to suggest a tax increase, but there are some good reasons to do so now:

1. The City Council's vote to place the measure on the ballot was unanimous.
2. The anticipated revenue stream of \$400 million per year would in great part be used to finance revenue bonds, thereby leveraging the taxpayers' out-of-pocket expense.
3. General use of these funds is a necessary condition for a 50%-plus-one majority to pass the tax. If specific purposes were required for the revenue, a super-majority of votes would be needed. That said, the ballot language will call for strict accountability, transparency, and oversight.
4. All parks would benefit from such a strong new revenue stream for the city. In particular, the expectation should be that parks will be better supported and cultural

groups could take greater advantage of Transient Occupancy Tax monies.

5. Finally, the needs are great. Decades of penny-pinching have led to a ridiculous burden of deferred maintenance that today's citizens must reckon with.

Balboa Park survives as a cultural and recreational center because all San Diego shares a sense of stewardship that comes from participation and support – and the resulting learning and growing we perceive. Our city needs similar stewardship now. Support for a sales tax to boost our city will build our shared sense of ownership for the positive results that this measure will provide.

The Burnham Center for Community Advancement has issued a followup report to its November 2022 survey of potential strategies to improve the financing and governance of Balboa Park. Dated July 31, 2024, the Balboa Park Community Progress Report notes that decades of deferred maintenance are part of a longstanding pattern of postponing needed investment in the park, with the result that today we are in need of action. All those who have a stake in the park and its management will read this report with interest. Stay tuned this fall for another report from BCCA that will recommend specific actions and initiatives.

Showcasing our region in the World Design Capital year of 2024 are the Bay to Park Paseo, now featuring a series of banners depicting a few of the park's trees; and, opened August 17, the Exchange Pavilion, a temporary structure in the Plaza de Panama, where public talks on urban design and other topics and events will be presented for the next three months. For more information: wdc2024.org

Ross Porter
President
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State of Balboa Park 2024:

'Stronger and better every single day'

By Roger Showley



Mayor Gloria presents the "Key to Balboa Park" to state Sen. Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, for her many years of championing the park.

Mayor Todd Gloria praised the Balboa Park Committee of 100 and other park stakeholders at his second annual "State of Balboa Park" address in August and highlighted recent improvements and those to come.

"This progress isn't by chance," he said at the Natural History Museum. "It is by choice. It is by the dedication and passion and hard work of countless San Diegans who are committed to preserving and enhancing this most magical of places."

He cited C100's Municipal Gym exterior restoration as one example of many projects in the works:

"The Municipal Gym is a vibrant hub for a variety of sports programs, including youth and adult basketball leagues, open play, fitness classes, disabled tournaments and special events," he said. "Thanks to our friends at the Committee of 100, we will begin installing recreated ornamentation to the Municipal Gym in the Palisades. This \$500,000 project will restore original 1935 Art Deco designs, beautifully complementing last year's efforts that revived historic details of the Auto Museum just across the Palisades."

Gloria also announced the issuance of a 60-day request for proposals to rehabilitate and operate the Starlight Bowl, immediately south of the Muni Gym and closed since 2010.

Other projects on tap include refurbishment of the Spreckels organ and pavilion; a new pergola in the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden on the east side of the pedestrian bridge over Park Boulevard; roof,

heating and air conditioning replacements and other infrastructure fixes at the Casa del Prado, Marston House, World Beat Center and restrooms.

Also on Gloria's park priority list: an update to the 1989 Balboa Park master plan and its precise plans; a dedicated fund for park improvement from lease payments and other direct park revenues; a renewed drive to reopen the Village Grill just west of Spanish Village ;and design work for a plaza between World Beat Center and Centro Cultural de la Raza.

In other planning efforts, Gloria welcomed the C100-led Balboa Park-San Diego High School Connections report due for review this fall by the Balboa Park Committee; the Burnham Center for Community Advancement's outreach plans for reforms to park management and funding; the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership Experience Plan to help visitors find their way in the park; the city's project prioritization framework study; the appointment of Jon Richards as deputy director solely focused on the park; and a full-time real estate assets manager to expedite the renewal of long-expired park leases.

The mayor also put in a plug for voters to approve a 1-cent increase in the local sales tax to generate a projected \$400 million annually for improvements in Balboa Park and citywide.

"There's no denying the fact that there is a long list of unfunded projects, unmet needs and deferred maintenance that we cannot paper over any longer," he said. "More revenue will be needed if we're to achieve Balboa Park's full potential."



The Botanical Building's \$28 million restoration nears completion. State Sen. Toni Atkins secured a \$9 million grant to get the project under way.

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* To be confirmed by members vote at the annual meeting Oct 7, 2024 at the San Diego Automotive Museum for term expiring 2026; ** for term expiring 2027

Palisades Restorations Continue

Singing Fountain planning advances

by Kevin Carpenter, Chairman, Projects Committee

The Projects Committee was busy this summer focusing on a future vision for the Palisades, as well as shepherding one of our signature projects into construction.

Looking to future projects, many of our members hope to realize the potential of the Singing Fountain, what was once the Firestone Singing Fountain of the 1935 exposition. Landscape architect and planner Vicki Estrada has led the effort to visualize the restored plaza and the fountain, backed by a team of artists and designers who have tested the confines of the precise plan.

Estrada, project architect Robert Thiele and the committee have developed a growing consensus for an interactive fountain option. While an exact historic replica fountain is still under consideration, an interactive fountain will honor the outline and fountain jets of the 1935 plaza, while addressing the needs of current park goers and restore and re-energize the Palisades plaza with cooling water, as well as retaining the multitude of other uses the plaza can offer. Regardless of the final form, the committee still has a long way to go to test the viability of the project and build consensus among the larger park stakeholders. The fountain will be a strong contender for C100's focus in the coming year, while we weigh other repair and restoration projects across the park.

Today, our current project restores the exterior of the Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries building (now the Municipal Gym) to its exposition era glory. Thiele has expertly led the design and permitting phase and is working with Projects Committee to transition the project into construction with general contractor Barnhart-Reese's Chuck McArthur with a rapidly approaching groundbreaking targeted for early this fall. Board members will recall that Barnhart-Reese was our partner for the restoration of the California State Building (San Diego Automotive Museum) across the plaza and we look forward to continuing that successful team for the Municipal Gym work.

From the start of the Municipal Gym project, another key partner has been Bellagio Precast. Mike Matson has led the effort to recreate the art of the monumental mural, the repeating façade ornaments, as well as the centerpiece ornaments of the overhanging marquee. Matson partnered with Thiele in researching archive images of these lost elements, and with painstaking technical skill and creativity, sculpted the new bas-relief models with the hand of a true artist. Bellagio is now well

into production on these elements to be installed, and has since also taken on the historic sign that proclaims the building "Electricity and Varied Industries" in the one-of-a-kind Art Deco font that originally graced the building. Like the other sculptural elements glass fiber reinforced concrete material, reinforced with stainless steel. This durable material is sure to weather gracefully with little maintenance required.

The Projects Committee meets monthly and welcomes new members interested in detailed discussions of the design and construction aspects of the work of C100.



The Municipal Gym as it appeared in mid-2021 prior to the repainting of its original colors and readied for return of exterior ornamentation, fabricated from documentation of the building in 1935-36.



Floor decoration at the entrance to the Municipal Gym depicts the theme of the building's use as the Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries at the 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition. The artwork will be restored as part of the building's restoration.



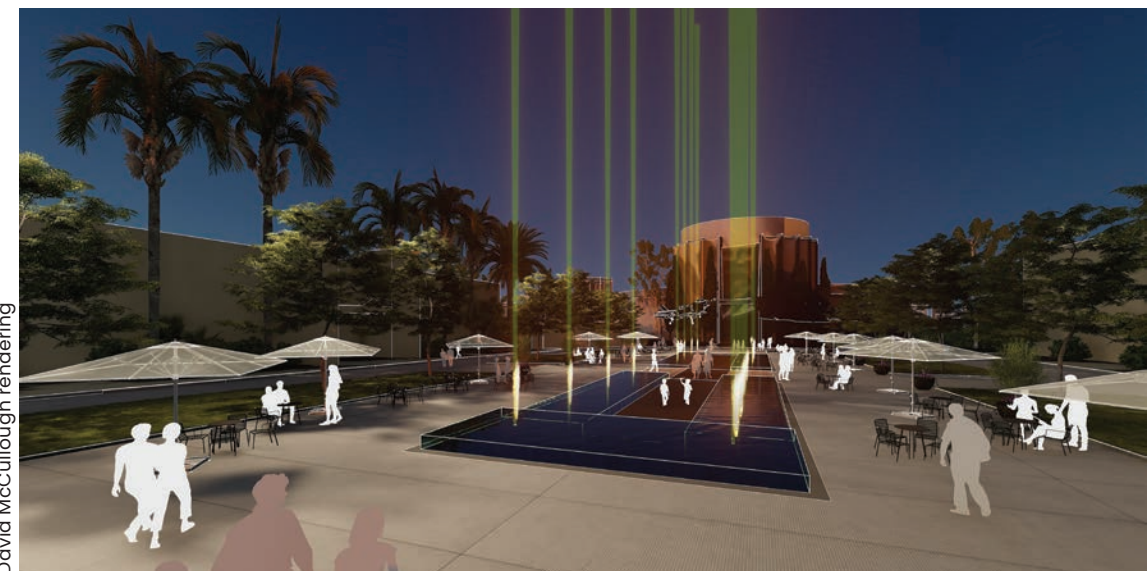
Ross Porter, Kevin Carpenter and Mike Matson check the models for elements of the bas-relief and ornamentation that will be installed on the facade of the Municipal Gym opposite the San Diego Automotive Museum in Pan-American Plaza.



At Bellagio Precast studios, from left, C100 board member Pete Garcia, Barnhart-Reese project superintendent Leon Cavallo and Bellagio owner Mike Matson review the artistic elements that will be installed above the entrance to the Municipal Gym.



One concept for a new "singing fountain" is three pools paved with decorative tiles and covered over with a metal grate. Temporary flooring could cover the fountain for special events. The dimensions would be the same as the 1935 Firestone Singing Fountain and a pair of kiosks, as in 1935, would house loud speakers. They would be placed north of the fountain, right, in this rendering by project architect Robert Thiele. Palm trees are not proposed as landscaping.



Landscape architect David McCullough, one of the participants in an ad hoc committee on fountain design, proposes uplighting with lasers around the six fountain jets to add drama to the nighttime setting. Ultimately, a sound-and-light show with image projections on the surrounding buildings could be added to create a thrilling nightly spectacle in the Palisades.

... The Muni Gym Restoration continued from cover

portal of the Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries was made of wallboard built up to great thickness and the figures were actually carved out of the material, forming a very bold bas-relief. The final treatment of the plaque was a bronze coating antiqued to give the effect of weather-aging. Juan was of invaluable assistance to me in planning all of the details of decoration for the entire exposition and he personally directed this work.”

Arturo Eneim, an artist on Juan Laranaga’s design team, created the bas-relief wheels of industry mural in fiberboard, coated with plaster of paris.

The Municipal Gym was at the start an “exposition palace,” devoted to the wonders of electricity and industry, with the building trades proudly featured alongside such Buck Rogers stuff as radio-wave popped corn, television and a kitchen you could talk to.

Today, such a reconstruction is a collaboration between architect, sculptor, engineer and history. How do these projects happen?

In 2018, under the leadership of Mike Kelly, the Balboa Park Committee of 100 undertook the creation of a vision for the Palisades area of Balboa Park, reflecting the historic period of 1935-1936. It included the re-creation of Pan-American Plaza by removing half of the parking lot; the tile murals, bears and flagpoles on the San Diego Automotive Museum (originally, the California State Building); the Firestone Singing Fountain in the plaza; and the monumental artwork on the Municipal Gym (originally, the Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries).

As an architect and C100 board member, I saw these projects as an opportunity for the committee to do something extraordinary and actually create something in the park.

Having worked with Michael Matson, sculptor and owner of Bellagio Precast, on the Automotive Museum, I approached him on recreating the massive 14-by-22-foot bronze mural on the west wall and the decorative elements on the marquee above the entrance. The material used is cold-cast, bronze, glass fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC) that Matson had used for the two grizzly bears on the Auto Museum roof. This finish would have a patina. We were almost giddy imagining how to fabricate, transport and install the massive mural on a historic structure in the park.

First, we found every photo we could of the building as it was in 1935, including postcards from the period. There were 110 pieces of ornament, top and bottom, surrounding the mural, and 120 pieces of industrial sculpture within the mural

Matson’s model has been developing for the past three years at his studio east of town. The mural’s 120 elements have been created and laid out on an enormous table in the studio yard.

Much conversation and humor was batted around about the gender of the images in the mural. The mural features varied mechanical elements in a factory setting with smokestacks, gears, wheels, generators and mechanical tools.

Three human figures preside over the composition. One at a drafting table and one more gazing out upon the panorama with his hands on a lever as though he was starting it up.”

Rubber molds were then made for a casting surface for the bronze finish, created from bronze powder and polymers with layers of GFRC built up to create each element or collection of elements. Once the elements were cast, they were ready for the stainless steel frame that is encased within the GFRC collection of elements.

Critical to the team was structural engineer Michael Krakower, who had experience in addressing the GFRC loading on an historic structure. He designed a steel truss system behind the parapet wall to hang the mural. Eight portholes through the wall will allow the mural to be hung in two large pieces with a stainless steel frame embedded inside the mural pieces. The marquee structure will cantilever through a bow truss not impacting the historic frame.

My job was to create the vision, research, design, develop drawings, process the building permit through the city and assist the contractor, Barnhart-Reese Construction to bring the project to completion this fall.



This 1935 image shows a group posing in front of the building with its elaborate but temporary decoration on the marquee that was removed soon after the expo closed in 1936.

Connecting Neighbors: Parks, Schools, Jobs, Culture

by Mike Stepler

A wide swath of community stakeholders has collaborated to produce an important new report that offers a strong vision of the future for Balboa Park, downtown and the nearby school campuses. The vision of this report is supported by specific ideas, projects, initiatives – about 60 of them – that could, if accomplished, transform the park and environs into an even greater regional asset, generating immeasurable benefits in culture, liveability and civic pride.

The report of the Balboa Park-San Diego High School Connections Working Group is headed to the Balboa Park Committee and then the City Council. The working group will ask the council to accept the report formally and to direct city staff to incorporate the working group’s suggestions and recommendations as appropriate into the Balboa Park Prioritization Framework, the Framework for the Future, the Balboa Park Master Plan update and other relevant initiatives.

The working group recommends that the city’s Balboa Park Committee be named as the entity to oversee the report’s recommendations.

Readers of this report will note familiar themes of park stewardship and the need to expand the region’s awareness, appreciation, and support of community

assets such as parks and schools. What’s new is the interdisciplinary nature of these recommendations -- their frank demands that we break out of silo thinking and look around at the community effects of specific projects on the drawing board.

The full report is available on C100’s website, balboaparkcommitteeof100.org.



Construction continues on the \$74 million first phase of San Diego High School.



The Exchange Pavilion, a temporary structure erected in August in the Plaza de Panama, is hosting dozens of events over the next few months related to San Diego and Tijuana’s designation as the World Design Capital for 2024. For more information: wdc2024.org.

SD Museum of Art West Wing: Whither Goes Its Replacement?

by Roger Showley

In recent months, the San Diego Museum of Art (SDMA) met with various groups, including C100, to discuss plans for replacing its West Wing.

But based on Foster + Partners' preference for modernist designs, it's unlikely the firm will propose reproducing the 1915 Science and Education Building, built in a Spanish Colonial style. Conceptual plans have not yet been released.

A lookback at post-World War II America puts the future of Balboa Park's architectural legacies in perspective.

For a while, there was a flight from historical architectural styles across America, including San Diego. Buildings were either replaced or remodeled to show off a new, sleek, modernist "form follows function" look. That's when Gaslamp Quarter buildings were refaced with unadorned "modern" exteriors and schools, courthouses and countless public and private buildings followed. This was the "City in Motion," the era of "urban renewal" – freeways, suburbs, shopping malls and office parks.

Balboa Park was not immune from these space age trends. By 1947 most of Balboa Park was back from service in World War II, and a series of studies explored what to do with deteriorating expo buildings, some of which were remodeled for the 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition but faced condemnation and removal.

SDMA was one of the first park institutions to reopen and it needed more space than was available in the 1926 Spanish Renaissance-style building architect William Templeton Johnson, had designed. He proposed a similarly styled east wing in 1947 and planned a matching west wing. But local architects and museum directors took a different direction a few years later. The glass and marble Timken Museum of Art opened in 1965 on the site of the Home Economy Building and SDMA's modernist West Wing and courtyard/sculpture garden opened on the west side in 1966.

A national backlash against the rash of demolitions (particularly the massive Penn Station in Manhattan), prompted Congress to pass the 1966 National Preservation Act, and in San Diego, Bea Evenson gathered 100 of her friends to form C100 in 1967. Its watchword was the "preservation of Spanish Colonial Architecture" in the 1915 expo grounds either by repair or reconstruction. The city declared the Prado the city's Historic Site No. 1 in 1967, added it to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 and incorporated it into a national historic landmark district. In 1981 the City Council adopted Policy 700-24



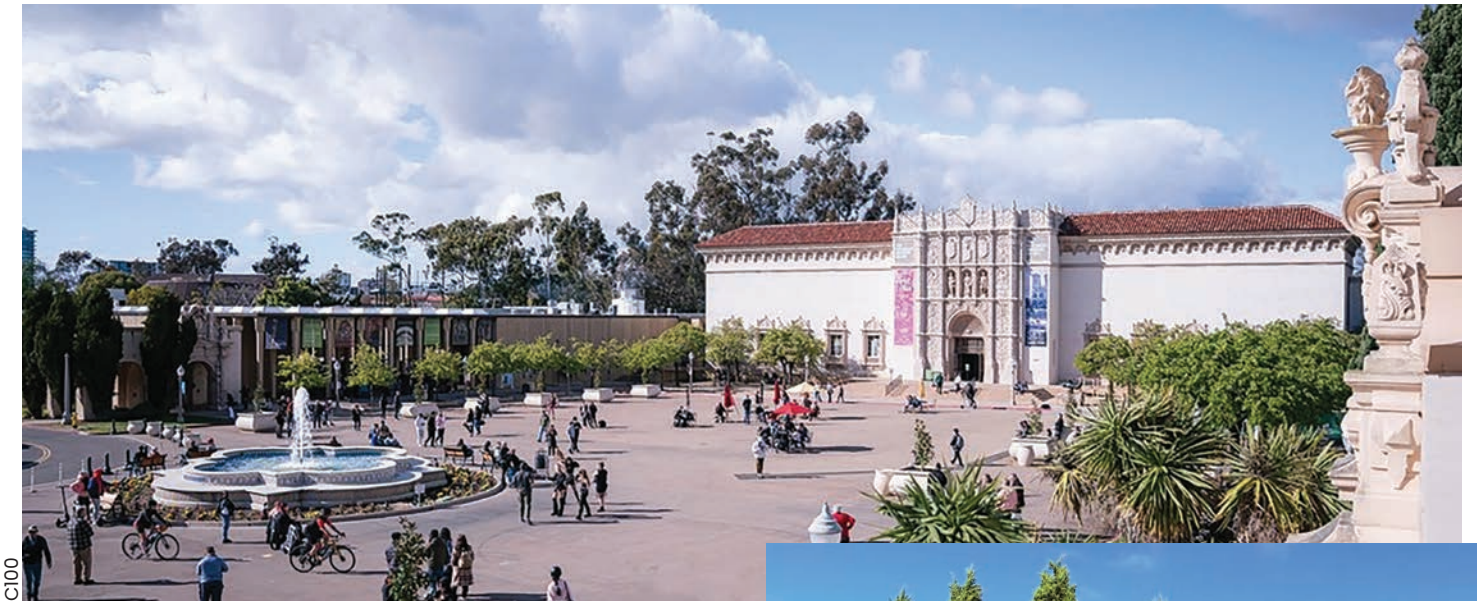
The Science and Education Building, designed by Carleton Winslow for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the San Diego Museum of Art's West Wing.

to "preserve the comprehensive expression of Spanish Colonial architecture in the Prado area."

Voters approved bonds to reconstruct the Varied Industries/Food Products Building as the Casa del Prado that opened in 1971. Reconstructions followed in the 1980s and '90s of the Casa de Balboa (1915 Commerce and Industries), House of Hospitality (1915 Foreign Arts Building), House of Charm (1915 Indian Arts Building) and the arcades along El Prado. The 1973 Fleet Science Center at the Plaza de Balboa included some Spanish-Colonial-inspired flourishes. The 2000 Natural History Museum north wing added a glassed-in atrium but preserved the look of the rest of the 1932 building, which had replaced the original Southern Counties Building that had been felled by fire in 1925.

In the 1970s and '80s, cities joined the Post-Modern revival of ornamentation with a nod to historicism (Horton Plaza shopping center was a leading example). Back in Balboa Park, few San Diegans remember SDMA's West Wing's predecessor. Carleton M. Winslow designed it under the direction of consulting exposition architect Bertram Goodhue, who described the Science and Education Building in his 1916 book *The Architecture of the Gardens of the San Diego Exposition*. The two-story building contained a tower or turret, interior patio and attached arcades. Some excerpts:

- "From one corner rises a stair turret decidedly Moorish in character but harmonizing well with the



The San Diego Museum of Art opened its original building in 1926 and the West Wing 40 years later. They face the Plaza de Panama that previously served as a parking lot until 10 years ago when the cars were replaced by picnic tables.

Renaissance style of the rest of the building, its top covered with bright black and yellow tiles. At each end of the patio a faun spurts water from his mouth into a tiny pool."

- "Though Moorish in design and decoration, the tower of the Science and Education, or Science of Man Building, fits well with the east facade of the structure. The upper stories of the flanking bays both bear three decorated windows on their fronts, framed with twisted columns and consisting of two arches supported in the middle by a slender column of Sienna marble. The soffit and frieze of the corner are decorated with rich coffering and support roofs of mission tile."

- "The tiny patio at the northwest corner of the Prado and Plaza de Panama includes one of the most



William Templeton Johnson proposed a design in 1947 for a new east wing of the museum that would have continued the 1915 expo style of Spanish Colonial revival. Johnson, who also designed the art museum's 1926 building, said a similar design could be used for a west wing.



charming bits of gardening in the exposition... A tiny balcony is set back into the shrubbery, completing a picture of a veritable 'Hortus Conclusus' [enclosed garden]."

- The front of the Science and Education or Science of Man Building, facing the Plaza de Panama, is different in style from the Prado front of the building, and was designed to recall the Churrigueresque as locally developed in Puebla, Mexico. The motive of the frontispiece is easily seen to be taken from that of the Church of San Francisco in Puebla, though modified to harmonize with the other buildings in the plaza. The important use of tile on the tower of this building is appropriate, Puebla being famous for its glazed and colored ceramics."

The full text and photos are available online at c100.org/books/Architecture_&_Gardens_Goodhue.pdf

As for that council policy, here it is, effective Aug. 24, 1981:

"The Spanish Colonial architectural style of the [Panama-California Exposition] shall be incorporated into new structures through the use of architectural design, style and ornament similar to, or compatible with, that of the other Spanish Colonial buildings in the area."

<https://tinyurl.com/council-policy-700-24>



Bay to Park Paseo: An update

by **Pete Garcia**

After 15 months applying for a permit from Caltrans to attach these five murals of Balboa Park trees to the Park Boulevard bridge over Interstate 5 as part of the Bay to Park Paseo project, we gave up trying to get a permit, with what we considered unreasonable liability requirements as we were running out of time to complete the installations during World Design Capital year.

Instead, we moved 25 feet south of the bridge and attached them to the San Diego High School fence.

The high school loves them!

SDSHS Vice Principal Josh Stepner, who happens to be the son of C100 board member Mike Stepner, was terrific in facilitating the school's approval in two days. The murals were then printed and installed five days later.

Please go by and look for yourself and see the attribution sign with acknowledgement of 100's participation.

All the temporary art installations along the Bay to Park Paseo are beautiful. The reviews of over 500 people who have taken the free guided tours have been very positive.

Will we do another paseo in two years? It's too soon to decide. There have been many lessons to process. Working in the public domain is very rewarding, but it requires a lot of effort and resources.

For more information: www.baytoparkpaseo.org



Annual Meeting: Oct. 7

by **Lynn Silva** Membership & Philanthropy Chair

As part of our Membership & Philanthropy Committee's role we oversee the various membership needs, events and fundraising activities.

RSVP to victory.ghl@gmail.com

Coming up soon is the Balboa Park Committee of 100's annual meeting from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, at the San Diego Automotive Museum. You'll have an opportunity to witness the granting of our annual awards to:

Betty Peabody, who will receive the Gertrude Gilbert Award for outstanding contributions to Balboa Park. The award is named for the civic cultural leader who spearheaded the first citywide vote to save the 1915 exposition buildings. Peabody and her late husband Homer founded the Millennium Society that morphed into the Friends of Balboa Park and then Forever Balboa Park. She was also the first recipient in 2023 of the mayor's Key to Balboa Park award.

John Nolen, will receive the Bertram Goodhue Award for planning, designing and developing Balboa Park. He was a nationally recognized city planner who wrote a master plan for Balboa Park in 1926 as part of his second plan for San Diego published the same year. He proposed a landscaped link between San Diego Bay and the park, an elusive vision that is being addressed by C100 board member Mike Stepner and others. Stepner will accept the award on Nolen's behalf.

Also at the meeting, C100 President Ross Porter will update C100's ongoing progress, including the restoration of the Municipal Gym, efforts to expand Balboa Park's civic footprint and impact, and more.

The business part of the meeting will include voting for renewing three-year terms of existing and new board members. You'll cast your vote on our current Board of Directors as listed in the newsletter.

While at the meeting, join in the excitement in the air about our continuing effort to revitalize the Palisades. Our committee stands committed to ensure our philanthropic endeavors are completed in a timely manner and are so appreciative of your membership and financial support.

Additionally, we are in the throes of developing a new strategic plan to guide our organization over the next five years. Included will be organizational updates and goals as well as possible projects to tackle following completion of the Municipal Gym restoration, such as a new Singing Fountain in Pan-American Plaza. These steps will enable C100 to continue its role and relevancy to ensure that Balboa Park is the best it can be.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, ideas or comments at lynnrsilva@gmail.com.

Betsey Marek Frankel 1921-2024

Betsey Marek Frankel, a long-time member of the Balboa Park Committee of 100, died peacefully on June 30, 2024, with her three children and their spouses by her side.

Mrs. Frankel was born Dec, 1921 in Pontiac, Michigan. She briefly attended Michigan State prior to dropping out for financial reasons during the Great Depression.

She worked at Fisher Auto Body during World War II, while taking private flight lessons and soloed in a single engine tail dragger.

After she moved to California, she met her future husband of over 50 years, Ensign Donald D. Frankel, USN, at the MCRD Officers' Club. After a very brief engagement, the couple was married at the Base Chapel on Ford Island in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The couple subsequently moved to their newly built home in El Cajon, where they raised their family and lived the rest of their lives.

With Don, Mrs. Franckel traveled the world, enjoyed local music and theater venues, including the San Diego Opera; the Old Globe Theatre, and volunteered for many local activities and groups, including C100 and its board. In her more than 25 years with C100, she was recording and correspondence secretary, cake chair and



member of the membership committee and contributed generously to the organization.

In later years, Mrs. Frankel enjoyed Wine Talk Fridays with local neighbors, during which they tried to solve the many problems of the world with engaging conversation.

Mrs. Frankel was preceded in death by her husband and her two sisters (Helen and Gerry) and is survived by her children, William, Robert (spouse Mary), and Susan (spouse Tracy); four grandchildren (Chelsea, Justin, Katelyn and Jillian); and one great-grandchild (Nora).

In lieu of flowers, Mrs. Frankel's children request that a donation be made to C100, 1649 El Prado, Suite 2, San Diego CA 92101.

Rachel Cobb to Offer Digital and Design Services to C100

by **Nancy Carol Carter**



Kay Harry

Photographer, graphic designer and web guru Rachel Cobb has been contracted to assist C100 in all forms of electronic communication and graphics. With proven expertise and many satisfied clients, she fulfills a current need for our organization.

Cobb launched her career in New York City, eventually traveling widely on photography assignments for Time Warner Publications, American Express Publishing, Hearst and other clients. She was the long-time photographer for singer Patti LaBelle, with her photos appearing on albums and in a PBS special. Her photography has also appeared

in National Geographic Small Books, *Travel & Leisure*, *Country Living*, *American Profile*, Sierra Club Calendars, *Horticulture*, *California Garden* and many other publications.

After settling on the New Jersey farm once home to her grandparents, Cobb has focused on graphic design of print materials, provided photography, and created and maintained websites for various businesses and nonprofit organizations, including the American Ivy Society, Holly Society of America, San Diego Botanic Garden, San Diego Horticultural Society, San Diego Floral Association and California Garden and Landscape History Society.

Cobb travels to California several times a year from her Weedy Acres farm where she lives with an array of animals and raises much of her own food. In celebration of her family's deep roots in the Port Norris area of New Jersey, she serves as president of the local historical society.



BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE OF 100

Working to preserve Balboa Park's historic architecture, gardens and public spaces since 1967

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Annual Meeting Reminder

All members and guests are invited to Balboa Park Committee of 100's annual meeting from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, at the San Diego Automotive Museum. For details see Page 10.

If you are interested in booking a talk from the Balboa Park Committee of 100, please contact Lucy Jackson at axjax@cox.net.

Architectural Heritage Walking Tours are given free from the Balboa Park Committee of 100 on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month starting at 11 a.m. at the Balboa Park Visitor Center. No reservations needed!

Muni Gym: Final Donor Appeal

Construction has begun on C100's \$634,000 restoration of the Municipal Gym! We have just enough to pay for the work as now estimated, but almost no cushion. If you haven't yet made a contribution for this year, please consider doing so now to get us over the top. As an incentive, all gym donations of \$1,000 or above will earn the donor a miniature plaque depicting the bas-relief sculpture that's to be installed on the gym façade.

Fill out this form and mail your check to Balboa Park Committee of 100, 1649 El Prado, Suite 2, San Diego CA 92101; online, balboaparkcommitteeof100.org/donate.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Amount \$ _____

- Check here to designate this for the gym project.
- Check here if you wish to remain anonymous.



The bas-relief shows a bustling scene of building and industry, related to the building's original use as an exhibition space for electrical works and industries.