

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.

www.balboaparkcommitteeof100.org



Grand Prize Winning Poster by Antonio Mustico

The Winning Poster: "A Dynamic Mix of Art and Information"

by **Welton Jones**, C100 Board Member

The best posters are a dynamic mix of art and information. The mission is accomplished when there is an expanded understanding and a refreshed vision.

That's what Antonio Mustico did with his graphic image of a Balboa Park icon, the building in the Palisades area, now home to the Auto Museum, for which the Balboa Park Committee of 100 successfully financed and arranged an exterior restoration.

At C100's request, the AIGA San Diego design group conducted a juried competition for a poster to commemorate the refreshed building and Mustico's soaring twilight abstraction was the \$1,000 winner among 17 entries.

Anybody is welcome to grab a snapshot of the four slim mural panels around the

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President's message



The world seemed to stand still when we all entered a months-long lockdown, prompted by the corona virus outbreak in the spring of 2020. The Balboa Park Committee of 100 shifted from

monthly in-person to remote Zoom board meetings. But the shutdown only hastened our resolve to improve the Palisades as quickly as possible.

The Automotive Museum restoration moved forward in the winter of 2021 without missing a step and came in on time and under budget with the help of Barnhart-Reese Construction. Under our "Balboa Park Bucket of Paint Club" initiative, we've repainted three buildings with their historic "Bagel" and "Honeymoon" colors. GoFundMe proved a relatively

painless way to raise modest sums to paint the Federal Building into a glowing palace for the Comic-Con Museum that opened in November.

During the second half of 2021 Mike Matson and his son Kevin at Bellagio Precast worked diligently to craft the model for two new California grizzly bear statues that will go on the roof of the Auto Museum in early 2022, the same place where originals stood in 1935. The Matsons also worked out the details of the ornamentation and bas-relief that will go on the Municipal Gym. They will bring back the inspiring look of what was originally the Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries at the 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition. Doug Barnhart and his family stepped up with a lead \$100,000 gift to make that project possible.

And to top it off, we've won three awards for the Auto Museum project from the Save Our Heritage Organisation, Pacific Coast Builders Conference and



Poster artists with Auto Museum Executive Director Lenny Leszczynski and C100 President Roger Showley. Photo Michael Warburton.

Associated General Contractors of America San Diego Chapter.

C100 isn't only about physical improvements. We stepped into the world of graphic art and, with a \$15,000 grant from the Peggy and Robert Matthews Foundation, launched a design competition for a celebratory poster of the Auto Museum murals. The AIGA San Diego design group managed the contest and the results were gratifying and heartening.

On the policy side, C100 was far from silent. We led the drive to return design review to park projects as a way to speed up, not slow down approvals. Once implemented, this process will resolve issues early.

Along the same lines, we questioned the 99-year lease for San Diego High School but resolved to make lemonade out of lemons and won conceptual approval from the city and school district to masterplan the area around the school so that the park, the school, the business district and residential neighborhoods complement one another.

When I took the post of president in January 2020, I vowed to stay and work as hard as possible for two years and then turn over the job to someone else. I'm a big believer in rotation in office and term limits. Heading an all-volunteer group like C100 is truly a labor of love, but one has to guard against burnout.

Over the past two years, we have diversified the board and empowered our four committees to do the bulk of the detail work. I want to thank Kevin Carpenter for his dedication to such details on Projects; Lynn Silva for her stay-on-task leadership on Membership; Bob Wohl on Archives & Communications for getting our redesigned newsletter (shoutout to editor Sonja Helton) and spiffy new website (shoutout to Benjamin Thiele-Long) up and running; and Sam Dychter on Finance for watchdogging our accounting books and preparing a Strategic Plan.

I welcome longtime board member Ross Porter, recommended to the board by the Nominations Committee, as our new president. He earned his leadership smarts as head of the Spreckels Organ Society. I'll continue on the board as past president and keep pushing C100 to be the park's most nimble, imaginative and get-it-done group, always with an eye to excellence and authenticity.

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Projects Team Copes with Bears, Bas-relief and FAA Permitting

by **Kevin Carpenter**, Chairman, Projects Committee

The Projects Committee finished up the year with lots of progress to show for our efforts, with projects in both design and in construction. Our monthly meetings were filled with weighty strategic decisions as well as detailed technical discussions. We also welcomed new members to the committee and are honored to carry on the role of getting Balboa Park Committee of 100's vision built into the fabric of the park.

Building on the success of the tile murals at the California State Building/Auto Museum, the committee continued to work with citizen architect Robert Thiele to document and permit Phase II, the Bears and Flagpoles.

These elements will be the finishing touches

that will restore the look of the building to its original exposition glory. The two bears, "Red" and "Fern" (for the Redfern family's bequest that made the project possible) will grace the corners of the building facing Pan-American Plaza, while the flagpoles will flank the parapets on either side of the entry rotunda.

As with most of the buildings in the park, adding these elements to the structure of the original building required some design creativity to not only ensure that they were safely anchored, but also accessible for maintenance and raising and lowering the flags.

As the permitting effort progressed, the team received a curveball from the FAA that not only the height of the bears and flagpoles needed to



The federal Building/Comic-Con Museum fully repainted in the original colors, "Bagel" and "Honeymoon." Photo C100.



Lynn Silva holds bas-relief model for Muni Gym. Photo C100.

be approved, but also the crane for placing them. As always Robert took the comments in stride and marshalled the design to the permit stage, and now we are gearing up for construction.

While we have funding and fabrication secured for the bears, we will be studying the costs for constructing the flagpoles to make sure that these secondary elements are not cost prohibitive due to the structural anchorage needed to conform with today's code. Flying a flag on top of a building is not as easy as it was in 1935! The committee is also looking at the best way to restore the two historic "California State Building" signs that flanked the front doors, potentially using our ongoing partnership with Bellagio Precast to bring these two signs back to life.

The other major project we have underway is the Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries/Municipal Gym. Like the California State building, the original ornament and bas-relief mural were removed in the years after the exposition. Bellagio Precast has reconstructed the design for the components from photos and has already begun casting some of the pieces out of glass fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC), the same process we used for the ornaments on the California State building.

The centerpiece, however, will be the monumental mural--originally modeled out of plasterboard to look like bronze for the exposition. The new version will actually be a bronze composite which will be indistinguishable from bronze, and weather similarly.

All this beautiful craftsmanship will need to be suspended from the existing building, so C100 has also contracted with Michael Krakower, a structural engineer with a track record of expertise in anchoring GFRC to existing buildings, some of which are here in the park. Michael will work alongside Robert as the design team of record to document and permit the new ornamentation and mural, as well as the restoration of the concrete terrazzo entrance floor and exterior lighting repair and upgrades.

On the horizon for 2022, we are looking forward to partnering with Comic-Con on their restoration of the Federal Building, which has already been kicked off with a fresh coat of paint courtesy of C100's own "Bucket of Paint Club." C100 will be collaborating with the Comic-Con team on how to restore the painted Maya themed glass mural with modern digital technology, as well as ways of connecting the museum to the plaza and opportunities for bringing more evening events and activation to the greater palisades area.

In support of all these projects C100 is continuing our successful partnership with Barnhart-Reese Construction. Doug Barnhart and Chuck McArthur continue to be valuable resources for pricing and constructability, and we hope to keep our stellar construction superintendent Shane Liberty on our projects (pending his availability) as we move forward with the Muni Gym in 2022.



The entrance to the Municipal Gym/Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries (1935) includes this terrazzo-like treatment that will be restored in 2022 along with other artistic elements. Photo C100.

Balboa Park Grizzly Bears: From Fuzzy Photos to Life-Size Statues

by **Michael Matson**, Bellagio Precast and Matson Studios

It will be a surprise to many when two eight-foot grizzly bears appear overlooking Pan-American Plaza from the roof of the San Diego Automotive Museum in Balboa Park.

But what most people don't know is that the museum was originally the California State Building and the bears were created for the 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition.

Like many of the ornamental architectural details in the park, they were not made to last. Most of them were done in a very short period of time with inexpensive inferior grade materials, like cardboard and plaster.

When the Matsons of Bellagio Precast in San Diego were called upon to create the original Mayan ornament on the Auto Museum, they made the original models from the old fuzzy black and white pictures obtained from the San Diego History Center.

In the process of poring over the plans provided by architect Robert Thiele, my son Kevin and I noticed a light sketch of a bear figure.

"What's this, Robert?"



Bear head model in varied surface treatments. Photo C100.

"Well, the bears were an original part of the building in 1935, but we have one or two bad pictures of them. Are you able to create a small scale model from the fuzzy picture?"

"Yes," I replied.

"Well nice models, but we don't have the money in the budget for the bears," Robert said. "Perhaps you could make more small bears for the purpose of fundraising appreciation favors."

The process of fabricating the full-scale original models began with a wood framework. Then the foam was filled in with paper and plaster. The final coat was Plastilina clay. The mold making and casting of the bear sculptures have begun and we expect to have a media event when the great bronze bears are craned up onto the Auto Museum.

Editor's note: With the completion of fundraising, the Balboa Park Committee of 100 did have enough money to move forward with the bears in the second phase of building restoration. They are expected to be in place in the first quarter of 2022. The fabrication cost is \$25,000 plus installation.



Mike Matson sculpts bear model. Photo Danielle Zhang.

'Balboa Park's Renaissance of Investment'

By **Roger Showley**, C100 president

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria hailed all the improvements to Balboa Park at year's end. "Balboa Park is experiencing a renaissance of investment that demonstrates our city's commitment to making sure that we are maintaining Balboa Park as the premier attraction that it is and is the heart of the city that we all feel it to be," Gloria said at a roving hour-long press conference in November highlighting what he called the "Balboa Park Renaissance."

From Balboa Park Committee of 100's many efforts in the Palisades, to infrastructure upgrades and new projects breaking ground throughout the park, buildings and grounds were dusted off and spiffed up in spite of the disruptions caused by the corona virus pandemic.

"Some might have said we could not get anything accomplished," Gloria said. "We have gotten a lot done in Balboa Park and we aren't done yet."

A week later Gloria returned to the park to celebrate the opening of the Comic-Con Museum in the Federal Building, opposite the C100-restored San Diego Automotive Museum and adjacent to the Municipal Gym whose artistic exterior will be restored in 2022.

"What a great day for this city, the merger of two incredible icons, Balboa Park and Comic-Con," Gloria told a morning crowd at the ribbon cutting ceremony. "I can't think of another cultural attraction that could possibly produce more exciting buzz—or as the comic books would say, boom, pow, bam!—to Balboa Park. It's just appropriate for its presence to be in the heart of our city, in the cultural heart, the crown jewel of San Diego."

He added, "I think as the word gets out, what you're going to see inside this historic building will really be the next chapter for this park. We are so proud to have this park and we're proud to include Comic-Con in it. It's an important day for our park and a wonderful day for this international phenomenon that was born right here in San Diego County."

Assemblyman Chris Ward, who previously represented the park on the City Council as did Gloria, commended C100 and other park stakeholder

groups in working to revitalize the Palisades.

The new museum brings a "sense of electricity, community vitality and vibrancy" to the city, he said. "Now the world will at long last have a place to come together to celebrate their passions not just for a few days but year round. The Comic-Con Museum will be at home right here in Balboa Park, the crown jewel of San Diego, where residents and visitors from all over can enjoy an experience unlike any other."



From left to right: Mayor Todd Gloria, Comic-Con officials Rita Vandergaw and David Glanzer and Assemblyman Chris Ward at the Comic-Con Museum opening. Photo C100.

Building on the annual Comic-Con International convention begun in San Diego 1970, the museum will offer a series of visiting exhibitions and ongoing educational programs and workshops for budding young artists and adults alike. A gift shop is just inside the entrance and a cafe is scheduled to open in 2022.

Future phases will bring additional changes inside and out, and the city will repair the roof. C100 covered the materials cost for city crews to repaint the building in its historic "Bagel" and "Honeymoon" colors, the same as applied to the Auto Museum and Muni Gym.

The Winning Poster:

“A Dynamic Mix of Art and Information”

by **Welton Jones**, C100 Board Member

...continued from cover

building’s entrance, but Mustico invites much more.

The perspective begins at earth level and swoops upwards, past gauzy impressions of vaguely updated 1935 takes of commerce, scenic beauty, agriculture and industry, on into the very heavens, a lift of the spirit into the infinity of possibilities with art providing the perspective.

Or, the whole composition leans and softly contemplates those starry skies. Or... wherever Mustico leads each individual.



Antonio Mustico

of feel to it and bring as much of the southwest color palette as I could,” the Eastlake resident said.

The poster was one of 17 judged by a jury assembled by the AIGA San Diego design group in collaboration with the Balboa Park Committee of 100. It suggests the entrance of the San Diego Automotive Museum (California State Building at the 1935 expo) in moonlight with images barely visible behind the colors of orange, yellow, blue and dark blue.

Mustico received a \$1,000 first place prize from C100 in the program underwritten by the Peggy and Robert Matthews Foundation.

A signed, numbered and limited edition of the poster is for sale at the Balboa Park Visitors Center and Auto Museum. Copies of other winning posters are also available at the two locations.

The best posters invite dreams.

There’s just enough solid framework shown to make certain which building is being contemplated, and that’s the information part: This is one specific corner of the fantasy that is Balboa Park. For years now, it has held the Auto Museum. Before that, it was a conference center. Whatever.

It makes a terrific poster.

Welton Jones, a long-time C100 board member, is a retired arts critic of The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Former Pastry Chef is the Poster Winner

By **Roger Showley**, C100 president

Antonio Mustico, 30, a former pastry chef and budding graphic designer, is the winner of the first poster contest for Balboa Park.

“I was trying to go for a twilight type

The design came to him after many visits to the park when he previously lived in South Park.

“I found myself there a lot of times in the evening and that’s why I decided to set it at night,” he said. Mustico, the great-grandson of Italian immigrants, grew up in Westchester, Pa., earned a degree in food and beverage management at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I. and worked at ski resorts in Colorado and Wyoming before moving to San Diego in 2016.

“Growing up, I loved being in the kitchen, cooking food,” he said. “The response I got from people when they would try my food was usually positive.”

His favorite recipe: Banana Bread with a secret ingredient passed along by his mother-in-law.

In San Diego, long hours and commutes led to a career change. His sister, a high school teacher, encouraged his interest in art and he enrolled at City College where he earned a graphic arts degree in May, married Alexis, another graphics designer, in June and works on digital graphic art designs at Chosen Foods in Middletown.

Mustico says he likes the new look of the now pedestrian-centric Pan-American Plaza and the restored buildings: “Before it was just a parking lot for the Auto Museum and Air & Space (Museum).”

Poster Contest Entries: **Varied and Intriguing**

By **Roger Showley**, C100 president

The Balboa Park Committee of 100 teamed with the AIGA San Diego design group to conduct their first artist competition to produce a poster for Balboa Park. This year the contest was keyed to the four recreated murals, commissioned by C100, that were installed on the San Diego Automotive Museum in the spring of this year.

“The goal of the contest was to engage a whole new group of San Diego and Tijuana artists -- professionals, amateurs and students -- into the park and tap their creative juices,” said C100 President Roger Showley. “AIGA San Diego managed the contest and set up an independent jury to judge the entries. If the public responds positively through sales of the posters, we hope to launch another contest in 2022 to celebrate the Municipal Gym restoration and the opening of the Comic-Con Museum.”

“Having the Balboa Park Committee of 100 reach out for support launched a wonderful community engagement project and partnership. It’s amazing to see an idea come to life, especially when it educates and inspires a community to act, to take notice,” said AIGA San Diego President Marc Hedges. “Working alongside C100, our team developed the brand, poster entry process, marketing plan, secured additional sponsorship, built the digital experience and managed the poster printing. We’re ready to do more for C100 and to leverage our strengths for others in the communities we serve.”

Inside the Minds of the Poster Artists

Editor’s note: The following are statements from each artist about their poster concept. If you are interested in getting a copy of an unpublished poster, you can contact the artist directly via their website, email or the Instagram @name as indicated. They are listed in order of the jury’s votes with #17 being disqualified because the artist is the AIGA San Diego president. But he received an honorable mention because of his exceptionally well-done design.

This first contest was keyed to the murals, designed by Juan Larrinaga for what was then the California State Building at the 1935–36 California Pacific International Exposition.

The images -- from left: commerce, scenic beauty, agriculture and industry -- were painted on fiberboard and disposed of after the fair. C100 commissioned RTK Studios in Ojai, Calif., to recreate them in 576 ceramic art tiles.

Fifteen artists, including three students from San Diego City College and one from the New School of Architecture & Design, entered the juried contest. Six winners were declared plus a seventh, who received an honorable mention from C100. The first place winner received a \$1,000 prize; second place \$500; third \$250; and the three runners-up \$100. The program was underwritten by the Peggy and Robert Matthews Foundation. Peggy was a long-term C100 board member.

A limited edition (24" x 36") signed and numbered of the winning poster (#1) plus popular editions (13" x 19") of six other posters (# 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 17) are on sale at the Balboa Park Visitors Center, San Diego Automotive Museum, Marston House Museum and possibly other park gift shops. They may also be ordered from C100 by writing to president@c100.org. The cost is \$35 for the limited edition and \$14 for the production editions, including postage and handling.

For information on the contest, go to aigasdposterproject.com.



#1. Antonio Mustico / antonio-mustico.com (1st Place)

My poster captures the essence of the theme because it highlights the values of the murals (commerce, scenic beauty, agriculture and industry). It promotes C100’s successful completion of the exterior renovation of the San Diego Automotive Museum because it is a surrealist representation of how it looks at night. This poster was inspired by my many nighttime walks around Balboa Park with family and friends.



#2. Petra Ives / lime-co.com (2nd Place)

My design is an abstract interpretation of the four tile murals at the Automotive Museum representing commerce, scenic beauty, agriculture and industry all in one composition. In an almost dreamlike surreal way, graphic hints of these themes morph together, creating this retro-inspired "California Dreaming" composition.



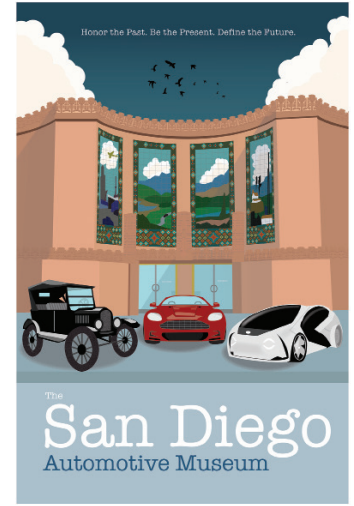
#3. Jobana Weber / behance.net/jobanaweber (3rd Place)

The poster honors transportation of the past by incorporating the old style of transportation (train), the present (airplane, boat, delivery truck) and the future (speed coaster—top right corner of poster). It honors both C100 (boat title) and the era—mid 1930s—which the murals represent (# on train).



#4. Kate McCarthy / @designbystudiom (Top 6)

The classic car is iconic, timeless, a thing of beauty and crosses cultural lines. The hills symbolize a playful, fantastical California landscape, with the treasure of the Auto Museum and its murals restoration heroically set atop a hill at journey's end.



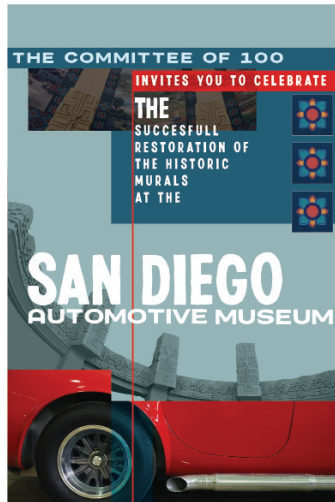
#5. Aidan McGuire / @aidans_art (San Diego City College) (Top 6)

The San Diego Automotive Museum is an enjoyable and eye-opening walk-through of history's automotive creations. I wanted to honor the history of the museum with a fun and engaging poster that not only showcases some interesting cars but also the beautiful architecture and murals.



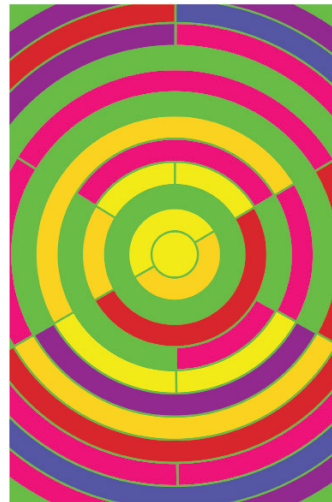
#6. Adam Koziol / koziol.studio (Top 6)

I came across two red-shouldered hawks diving at each other in the trees during one of my site visits. They stuck with me and represent the past, present and future of this area. The colors came from the murals.



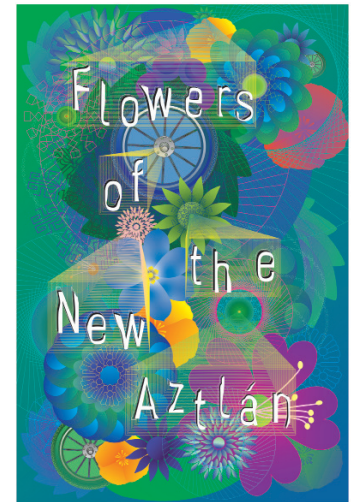
#7. Tim Topalov / @flow.n.form

The poster implements vintage fonts I discovered upon visiting and researching the San Diego Automotive Museum. Images of the building's Mesoamerican inspired facade are included, together with the cars inside. Some of the mural tiles are used as decorative elements throughout the poster in an attempt to represent this nuanced establishment in its diverse culture unifying essence.



#8. Rah / @rahhamman (SD City College)

San Diego and Tijuana are companions that get the pleasure and privilege of dying by each other's side every sunset, only to wake up together about 12 hours later and do it all over again. That may sound morbid to us mortal beings, but keep in mind we humans gladly stand and watch by the wayside (sometimes taking photos/videos) during this daily demise. Our horizons always have been and always will be something instinctually sacred to us. The best way to honor the past/present/future of our city is to consciously protect and care for it.



#9. Chitra Gopalakrishnan / @chitragopala | chitraa.com

In this piece I honor the culture of the original people of this region, the spectacular natural beauty of the landscape and the innovation that drives us forward. The typography used here is iteratively altered as an analogy to the way we constantly re-write our own histories. The title pays homage to a mythological land speculated to represent this region—the flowers symbolizing hope, joy and growth. There are elements of the Pre-Columbian motifs shaped as floral patterns, interpretations of the Southern California flowers juxtaposed with motifs of automobile wheels, all working together to show the interconnections that depict this area today.



#10. Angela Noble / @nobleintentstudio

An original hand drawn map from 1935 overlays today's map, subtly highlighting the differences and similarities of the park then and now. The Palisades, and particularly the Ford Building (Air & Space Museum), are given prominence with overt underlining and accentuation by the shapes set over the map foundation. A 1935 Ford automobile, a palm tree mimicking the one originally at the center of the Palisades walkways, the orange as San Diego's most bountiful agricultural export and a cargo ship represent the themes of the murals. The themes are spelled out literally in the typeface Runic Condensed. Though it reads as a contemporary font, it was actually created in 1935—a final nod to the melding of past and present.



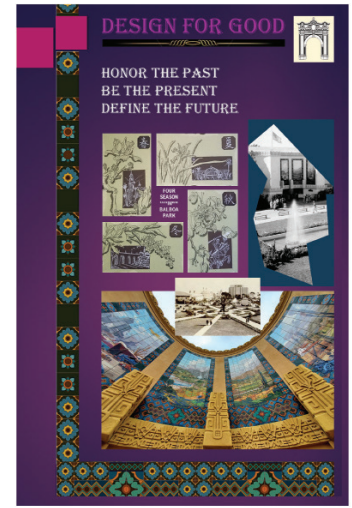
#11. Theresa Zettner / theresazettner.com (San Diego City College)

My design incorporates the tiling of the present day phase of the project, recalls the historical context in which the original art was produced and nods to the binational nature of our geography through the representation of the national birds of Mexico and the United States.



#12. Alex Griebel / @stickshiftstudios

"Sculptures of Speed" reflects vehicles found inside the San Diego Auto Museum. Photos honor California heritage shot in Monterey. The poster captures the automobiles feeling of motion. Vector graphic styling/posterization was used for a vintage feel—past (Ferrari, Ford GT, Countach) and present (Ford GT, Hybrid Porsche 918).



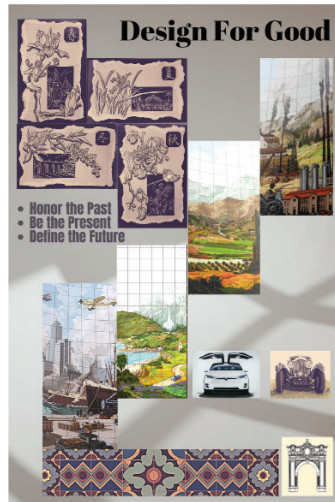
#13. Danielle Zhang / daniellez.art

Balboa Park is truly a crown jewel of San Diego, America's Finest City. As a local artist and landscape designer, I drew inspiration from its four seasons. Good design is timeless and worth celebrating! I incorporated a newly restored mural and historic image of the site as well as highlighted some plant material and iconic architecture throughout the park as a reminder of the importance to preserve Balboa Park's historic architecture, gardens and public spaces since 1967 (the founding year of C100).



#14. Michael Carpenter / michaelcarpenter.design (NewSchool of Architecture and Design)

My design represents the dream in 1935 to preserve automobile history so that future generations can learn about its fascinating story. The stack of automobiles in a field shows what would happen if not for the museum's custodianship. The pattern in the front is a nod to the new museum mural wall and a reminder to meditate on the present, contemplate the future and reflect on the past.



#15. Danielle Zhang / daniellez.art

Same as the previous entry #13.



#16. Adam Koziol / koziol.studio

After reviewing photos from a site visit, there was one of the palms in the reflection pond. I represented that moment as if they were in the water.



#17. Marc Eric Hedges / marchedgescreative.com

My poster is a contemporary representation of the Balboa Park Committee of 100's work in restoring the California State Building's historic features, spotlighting the four murals. It also showcases a 1935 Ford Coupe, giving homage to the building's origins and its benefactor, the San Diego Automotive Museum.

San Diego High School and Design Review: An Update

By **Mike Stepner**, C100 Board Member

// Our generation is passing to the future a heritage of an astounding expanded economy devoted primarily to practical aspects of our civilization. Compounded with this we pass on a massive debt and a seemingly disregard for the preservation of many natural resources. It is our profound duty, therefore, that we pass intact to the future Balboa Park, this transcendent work of the hands of men, some of whom have passed and some of whom are still present in our day.” — Balboa Park Study Committee – Final Report, 1957

SAN DIEGO HIGH SCHOOL

In 2016 San Diego city voters approved Measure I which would allow the San Diego High School campus to remain in its current location. The current agreement requires the school to relocate from the park by 2024. A new lease, approved by the City Council in September, grants a new 99-year lease to pave the way for a complete rebuilding of the school. San Diego High opened in 1882, was rebuilt in 1907 and again in 1977. Legally, schools are not a permitted use on parkland.

The Balboa Park Committee of 100 recommended the City Council view the new lease as an opportunity to “grow” the park and reconnect neighborhoods. Rather than framing the issue as a high school that’s occupying park land, why not think of it as a school that has potential to grow the park for the public?

The council, with the San Diego Unified School District’s support, agreed with the idea by Councilman Joe LaCava to form a working group to look at the opportunities the school rebuild offers. Think of it as the “IDEA + District.” East Village developers David Malmuth and Pete Garcia included about 40 blocks between City College and the Central Library to form the “Innovation, Design,



San Diego High School’s conceptual plan of the building along Park Boulevard. Rendering SDUSD/Mosher Drew Architects.

Education and Arts District.” The “+” would expand the district to include the high school and the park, as well as adjacent neighborhoods.

Under Mayor Todd Gloria’s leadership, the working group would include representatives of city departments, SDHS and school district, City College and the community college district and Balboa Park and East Village interests. It would look at current and proposed projects and formulate a plan to fit all the pieces together, so that the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts -- both physically and programmatically.

The school district is currently discussing forming a design task force to conduct a series of public meetings on revisions to the campus plan. The process would also look at the connections and relationships to the projects and issues listed below.

Of concern is will this really be a process that is broad enough to look at a bigger vision for the IDEA+ District?

Some of these projects could include implementing the park’s Inspiration Point, building a “lid” over Interstate 5 and beautification of Park Boulevard (“John Nolen Parkway”) as it passes by the school, across the freeway and into the park.

Other ideas include joint school-community use of the athletic fields, “greening” the Balboa Stadium parking lot and continuing the 14th Street Promenade through the college, high school and across a

new, wider pedestrian bridge over the freeway to Inspiration Point.

The park's cultural institutions would anchor IDEA+ to the north and the newly opened UCSD Downtown center at Park and Market Street to the south.

If successful, the park, educational institutions, businesses and neighborhoods would collaborate over time to make this urban district of San Diego better than ever.

DESIGN REVIEW IN BALBOA PARK

On October 21, the San Diego Architectural Foundation awarded an Onion to Balboa Park's recently completed prefabricated West Mesa toilets. "These two public toilets that came "out of a box," the nomination argued, "are perfect examples of what happens when the city buys inappropriate and highly visible buildings without professional design services and drops them into historic Balboa Park."

The planning process for the restrooms off Sixth Avenue is what prompted C100, the Friends of Balboa Park, the Balboa Park Conservancy and many others to call for the reestablishment of a design review process for the park.

This led to the creation of the Balboa Park Design Review Exploratory Committee. The committee includes representatives of the park's key stakeholder groups and the Parks and Recreation Department.

The committee began meeting almost a year ago and developed a proposal for a Balboa Park design assistance subcommittee of the Balboa Park

Committee.

From the outset, the exploratory committee sought to learn as much as possible about the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the parks department's old Design Review Board, disbanded about five years ago, and to leverage this knowledge into a pilot project to test for the next year.

The purpose of the Design Assistance Subcommittee pilot:

- Provide professional advice to ensure that projects fit visually and physically in the park, comply with existing park plans, policies and design guidelines and enhance the park experience.
- Increase efficiency, clarity, transparency and predictability in project initiation and approval.
- Reduce design-related impediments to the progress and completion of park improvement projects.

The goal is to speed up project approval by identifying and solving issues at the earliest stage of design development and calling on experts for help. The current review process cuts out these early steps for the sake of efficiency. But the unintended result was projects sometimes have to be redesigned, resulting in higher costs and delayed completion.

The exploratory committee's proposal is currently working its way through city review, heading for a one-year trial period.

If this new approach succeeds, it could become the model for the reestablishment of the city-wide design review process for parks as recommended in the city's recently adopted parks master plan and perhaps other city projects as well.



The repainted Federal Building/Comic-Con Museum, left, did not include recreating the 1935 painted image of a Maya priest or warrior, right. The museum is contemplating a series of video screens that could project this image and others. Photos C100.

The Balboa Park Committee of 100

Donors 2020–2021

This list represents donors to the Balboa Park Committee of 100 in 2020 and 2021 based on the best records available, as of mid-November 2021. Any donor is considered a C100 member.

Also included are Life Members, 2001–2021, and donors to the Automotive Museum tile murals and C100/AIGA San Diego Poster Contest, Balboa Park Bucket of Paint Club/Federal Building/Comic-Con Museum and Municipal Gym restoration.

Regarding couples, if a spouse's name is not known, we have listed the couple as Mr. or Dr. and Mrs. as appropriate. If your name is missing or corrections are needed, please let us know at president@c100.org and we will include your name

in the next newsletter. The names of donors who are deceased have been removed but we are grateful for their past support. Please let us know if you see someone's name here who is deceased.

We respect donors' privacy and will not print their names or dollar amounts if they request to remain anonymous. If your name was included inadvertently, please let us know and we will so indicate in our records.

We thank all our loyal members and donors, without whose generosity we could not continue our important work to restore and improve Balboa Park, the "crown jewel" of San Diego. Your support will encourage others to join us!

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"The architecture and artistic team working on the restoration has done an outstanding job to bring the Municipal Gym back to its vibrant life. Please join me in supporting these efforts by contributing to the \$300,000 needed to be raised for the restoration. Our family has contributed \$100,000 in the form of a challenge grant, matching every donation by 100%. Any amount counts. Together we can get this done."

- Douglas Barnhart

Balboa Park Committee of 100's Awards for 2021: **Chris Tobey and Rene Smith**

by **Dan Manlongat**, C100 Board Member

Bertram Goodhue Award for **Park Buildings and Grounds**

When Chris Tobey's great-grandfather Chet started with a hot dog stand serving golfers many decades ago, he had a vision of serving those in the community at affordable prices—a value that still holds true today.

Chris mixes the original recipe of corned beef hash by hand every week. This method that Chet created in 1934, like its Balboa links location, its spectacular view, the retro diner countertop and swivel chairs, is a recipe for why some things are just perfect in their original design. Chris still enjoys spending time with his family going to Balboa Park and the San Diego Zoo.



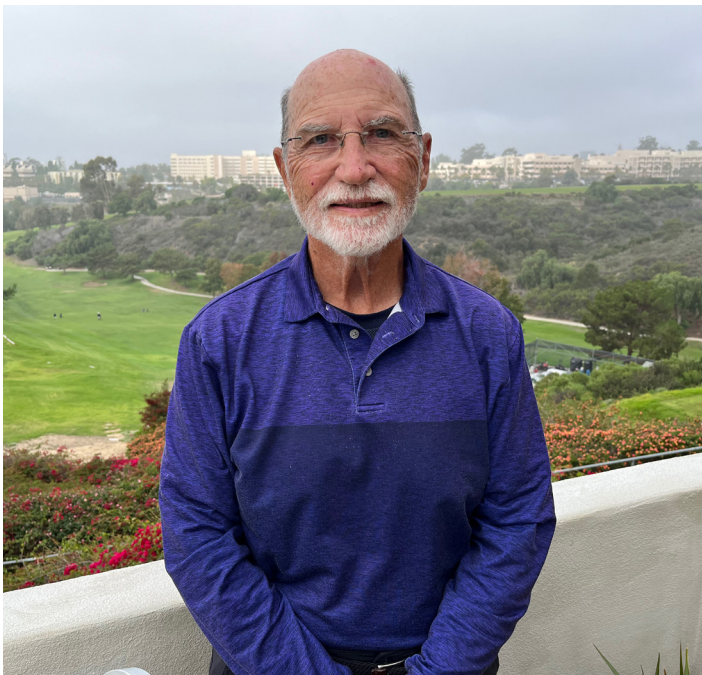
Chris Tobey. Photo Dan Manlongat.

Gertrude Gilbert Award for **Park Preservation**

Rene Smith began his influence on Balboa Park's preservation after serving as a commander in the Navy Supply Corps. He used his degree in English and master's in math from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to further comprehend the park at a structural level.

His contributions include assessing the condition of park facilities, championing \$4.3 million in new and rehabilitated restrooms and researching and analyzing the Friends of Balboa Park's parking and circulation study.

Smith continues that tradition of activism and dedication to preserve the park, one he has loved since his first visit in 1968—one year after C100's founding. He has since joined the C100 board.



Rene Smith. Photo C100.

Editor's note: In the Spring 2021 newsletter, Darlene Davies' year of first visiting Balboa Park should have been noted as 1950. She received the 2020 Gertrude Gilbert Award.



BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE OF 100

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

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c100.org with the subject line "HERE'S MY EMAIL." Your Balboa Park Committee of 100 plans to hold our Annual Meeting in a new, fun format... Stay tuned for details but please put June 6th on your 2022 calendar. Time and place to be determined. Lynn Silva, Vice President and Membership Chairwoman, (619) 980-5676, lynnrnsilva@gmail.com

Above: Long-time C100 board member Kay Rippee receives 100th birthday applause at holiday banquet. Photo Danielle Zhang.

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