



100 THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED

Dedicated to the Preservation of Spanish Colonial Architecture in Balboa Park

SPRING 2007

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NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Restoration of Alcazar Garden Fountains and Benches Underway

Tiles are now being created to match and replace the damaged tiles on the benches and fountains in the Alcazar Garden. The Committee of One Hundred has contracted with artist and tilemaker Laird Plumleigh of Encinitas. Mr Plumleigh is no stranger to Balboa Park, having designed and created the tiles for the Plaza de Panama Fountain and consulted on the development of Founder's Plaza. Several different tile designs are being replicated and over a thousand tiles will be replaced, the new tiles weathered by sandblasting to match the original tiles as closely as possible.

For the 1935-1936 California Pacific Exposition, Richard Requa redesigned the Montezuma Garden, which had been built for the 1915-1916 Panama-California Exposition. Requa created a formal garden based on the famous Alcazar Gardens of Seville, Spain. In his book *Inside Lights on the Building of San Diego's Exposition: 1935*, Requa wrote:

All of the identifying characteristics of a section of the famous Alcazar Gardens in Seville are there, the archways, fountains and seats, all are faithfully reproduced from the originals even to the design and coloring of the tile.

The total cost of the Alcazar Garden tile restoration is expected to be \$50,000—that entire amount has been

donated or pledged through The Committee of One Hundred's fundraising efforts.

All San Diegans and many thousands of visitors to Balboa Park will benefit from this restoration, as we and they enjoy the beauty of the Alcazar Garden.

We have dedicated this restoration project to Pat DeMarce's memory and will place a plaque nearby in her honor once the repairs are made. Thanks so much to all who have contributed to this important project.



Guest Speaker: Milford Wayne Donaldson

Plan to Attend Our Annual Luncheon Meeting: Friday, June 22, 2007



This year's guest speaker will be California's State Historic Preservation Officer, Milford Wayne Donaldson, AIA. Wayne is widely known for his architectural work in San Diego and throughout California. Over the years, he has been instrumental in the restoration of Balboa Park buildings, culminating with the award-winning reconstruction of the House of Hospitality in 1997.

He was founder and president of Architect Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA (1978-2004), an architectural firm in San Diego specializing in historic renovation and adaptive reuse of existing structures. Previously he was an associate architect for Moser Drew Watson AIA (1972-1978). He has taught architecture at Southwestern Community College and at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (1969-1970). Mr. Donaldson earned Bachelors of Science degrees in architecture and engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis

Obispo. He received a Master of Science degree in architecture from University of Strathclyde, Scotland and a Master of Arts degree in history from University of California, San Diego.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Milford Wayne Donaldson as the new State Historic Preservation Officer in 2004.

Mr. Donaldson served as the historic architect on the State Historical Resources Commission from July 1986 to March 1990. He is affiliated with several historical and preservation organizations including the Historic State Capitol Commission, State Historical Building Safety Board, Building Standards Commission, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the California Preservation Foundation.

2015 Centennial by Welton Jones

Nobody else may be fully prepared for the Balboa Park Centennial in 2015 but I think The Committee of One Hundred will be.

If the 1915-1916 Panama-California Exposition was indeed the City's finest hour, then anything less than a first-class celebration of its 100th anniversary will be a sad disappointment.

The glorious Spanish-Colonial architecture of the Park's core, the main reason for its unique, world-famous allure, was created for the Exposition in a burst of civic pride and achievement unmatched in local history. And for forty years the Committee of One Hundred has labored to preserve or restore this priceless cultural heritage.

The logical climax of our efforts should be the 2015 birthday party.

Obviously The Committee of One Hundred can't solve all the Park's problems. Not only is it beyond the scope of our mission, but also there is serious doubt that any one existing entity, in this complex and confounding era, can be the lead saviour of Balboa Park.

But certainly we can take immediate and emphatic steps to do OUR part. Whatever the eventual form of the Centennial will take, we can insist that we bring our long experience and careful planning to the mix. We can persuade the decision makers of



the wisdom in respecting the past while deciding on the future. And we can have ready specific plans to carry out our vision.

That's why I asked our President Mike Kelly that I be assigned to chair a planning committee for the 2015 event. And that's why the Committee already has begun organizing our priorities and preparing position papers.

That's why we had an eye-opening brain-storm session at the February, 2007, board meeting, the results of which are still being absorbed.

There probably is planning going on elsewhere for the 2015 anniversary. Plenty of lead time still exists. But it's not too early for specific steps. And I hope every member of the Committee of One Hundred will join me, as a supporter or even a member of the planning committee, in making sure WE are ready.



Administration Building Façade

The original ornamentation around and above the entrance has been long missing from this building—the first building completed for the Panama-California Exposition. The Committee of One Hundred intends to restore this entrance to its original condition. The image shows the missing ornamentation at the left of this photo simulation.

Cost estimate: \$700,000.

California Tower Earthquake Retrofit

The California Tower needs support! This San Diego landmark is an icon—what a tragedy it would be if an earthquake were to topple it. More so because its loss might have been prevented. Work will be done in two stages:

- 1) assessment and development of an earthquake retrofit plan, and
- 2) implementation of the earthquake retrofit.

The Committee of One Hundred has pledged \$10,000 in matching funds for the planning stage. Cost estimate: \$600,000 for planning, \$6 million for the earthquake retrofit itself.

Contribute to either of these deserving projects. Send what you can. Every dollar counts. Make your check to The Committee of One Hundred and mail to:

The Committee of One Hundred
Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4753



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