



# 100 THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED

*Dedicated to the Preservation of Spanish Colonial Architecture in Balboa Park*

WINTER 2012

[www.C100.org](http://www.C100.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Balboa Park Alliance to Restore Fountains

Two identical fountains flanking the front of the Botanical Building trace their origin to the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. No longer working, these empty fountains are a sorry sight, having shed many of the non-historic tiles inside the fountains.

In preparation for the 2015 Centennial celebration, the members of the Balboa Park Alliance (The Committee of One Hundred, the Friends of Balboa Park, and the Balboa Park Trust at the San Diego Foundation) have agreed to correct this unsightly situation. The group will fund the restoration of the fountains, new lighting, and a redesigned water supply and pump system. The result will be a quiet, automatically controlled system that will put these historic fountains back into service. The hand-colored 1915 postcard below shows both fountains, one in the center foreground.

The same postcard also shows a missing arbor directly behind the fountain in the distance. Reconstruction of



## We Need Your Support!

Help us improve Balboa Park for the 2015 Centennial and beyond. Please consider making a contribution to one of these projects:

- Panama-California Sculpture Court
- Botanical Building Fountain Restoration
- 2015 Centennial Digital Archive

Make out your check to "The Committee of One Hundred," designate one or more of the projects, and send it to us at:

THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED  
Balboa Park Administration Building  
2125 Park Boulevard  
San Diego, CA 92103-4753

the arbor is supported in the Balboa Park Master Plan. This area was designated "Leap-year Court" for 1916 and said to be a place where young women might propose marriage to their male friends.

### 2015 Digital Archive—what's that?

This permanent, on-line collection of documents will include photos, correspondence, architectural drawings, maps, ephemera, and one-of-a-kind items from the 1915-1916 Panama-California Exposition and preserve them for posterity.

The archive will provide access to material that can be difficult to find and tell personal stories about the Exposition that forever changed San Diego, illustrated with photos contributed by the public. It will do the same for the 2015 Centennial itself, saving stories of our upcoming celebration for another century. For details, visit [www.C100.org/2015archive](http://www.C100.org/2015archive)

— Michael Kelly

# Repairing San Diego's Most Historic Roof

by Curtis Drake

In San Diego, we want all the water we can get. But when it comes to old buildings, water is the enemy. Most of the time a roof repair project is a process of simply removing and replacing old worn-out roofing. Atop the 1915 California Building (home to the Museum of Man), a lot more sits up there than just roofing. What makes the building so delightful to look at is the variety of shapes, colors, and materials that make the assembly a complicated interplay of these materials that ultimately must keep the weather on the outside.

A survey of the building's roof in 2007 indicated that deterioration of cast-stone elements, mortar, and sealants were similar to conditions repaired on the California Tower under my firm's direction several years ago. The cast-stone lantern atop the dome and at the dormers around the base of the dome were cracking, allowing water to move into the stone and corrode reinforcing within and in some cases leak through to interior finishes of the museum. The dome is located above a tar & paper roof that has seen its useful life dissipate over the last ten years. The last time repairs were made to the dome and roofing was

in 1976. Accessing the steeply curved dome requires extraordinary scaffolding to maintain the roof and safely make repairs.

If the current project was limited to replacement of the roofing, the water intrusion would continue to work into the cast-stone above the new roof. Before long, more difficult repairs would be needed, risking damage to the almost new roof. Troubling economic times provide a very



*California Building, 1915. Collection of Michael Kelly.*

competitive price environment resulting in a good opportunity to take these repairs in hand and protect the California Building for another generation.

Because of the steep barrel-vaulted roofs, the roofs are visible from many angles, meaning we needed to be careful about the color of roof to be applied. Historic research using old black & white photos indicated a roof had a similar tone to the cast-stone on the building rather than the silver color applied in the 1970s. Investigation of the roofing membrane indicated the current roof went directly over the concrete roof underneath. Lessons learned from the California Tower restoration and ornamentation gave Heritage Architecture a unique insight into the historic construction methods, the effects of water intrusion, and proven repair materials.



*Typical cracks in stonework. Photo by Curtis Drake.*



Funding for the entire project, expected to be about \$1.2 million, will come from the City of San Diego. The roof of the California Building will again be secure for its 100th birthday in 2015 and water-tight for another fifty years. The treasures of the Museum of Man will once again be safe from the weather.

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Curtis Drake is an architect and principal in the San Diego firm Heritage Architecture & Planning. Curt has a Bachelor's Degree in Architectural Studies from the University of Wisconsin and attended the Masters of Architecture program at USC. He is currently Ex Officio and board member of Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO).

*Scaffolding the dome. Photo by Michael Kelly.*

Technology and advancements in roofing products enhanced our ability to specify a roof that is far more durable than the old-style, built-up roofing used in the last roofing replacement. The new roof is a single ply Tri-polymer Alloy (TPA) roof that provides the historic tan color roof with limited seams and is completely recyclable when it finally wears out. The TPA roof comes in large sheets, and has exceptional seaming capabilities. Other systems were considered, but color availability and the very difficult and steep application made the TPA a superior choice.

The current roofing project also included repair and re-roofing of the clay tile roof in the Plaza de California, reconstruction of the historic carport, and re-roofing of the Administration building adjacent to the California Building. Currently, museum roof repairs are underway and should be completed by April 2012.



*Clay tile roof in the Plaza de California. Photo by Curtis Drake.*



## Panama-California Sculpture Court

Four of the original pieces of sculpture from the “temporary” 1915 Varied Industries and Food Products (Food and Beverage) Building, built for the Panama-California Exposition, have been cleaned, repaired, and mounted on sturdy new stands.

These sculptures are on display in the courtyard of the Casa del Prado, along with several more pieces scheduled for completion throughout 2012. The Committee of One Hundred added a beautiful new wooden bench, made from redwood trees that had been removed from Balboa Park’s Marston Point.

I hope you will visit the Sculpture Court and watch the progress of our 2015 gift to Balboa Park. We will soon be adding interpretive signage, explaining the stories behind the sculptures and the Sculpture Court. While most of our donors are individuals, this project could not have been undertaken without the generous support of the Balboa Park Trust at the San Diego Foundation and the County of San Diego.

*Photo by Michael Kelly*

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2125 Park Boulevard  
San Diego, CA 92101-4753

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*Repairing the Dome. Photo by Curtis Drake.*