



THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED

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

Spring 2016 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Now You Can Drive an Electriquette in Balboa Park

After more than four years in development, Sandor Shapery is bringing back a long-lost gem from the 1915-1916 Panama-California Exposition. Visitors to the Exposition could rent and drive an electriquette in Balboa Park's plazas and along El Prado, where many had their photograph taken and printed on a postcard.

In 2011 San Diego entrepreneur Sandor "Sandy" Shapery, of Shapery Enterprises, decided to bring the wicker carts back to Balboa Park. Some of you have had your photo taken in one of Shapery's prototype electriquettes at our annual luncheons. You will soon be able to experience the fun of driving one yourself. Twenty-five electriquettes have been built by Shapery's San Diego Electriquette Motorcart Co., and some will be available for rent at a kiosk near the Reuben H. Fleet Museum starting in April.



The Panama-California Exposition Digital Archive includes more than 100 photos of fair-goers in electriquettes during the 1915-1916 Exposition. Well-dressed men, women, children posed for the camera, most often with pigeons on their arms, shoulders, or heads.

Visit the Digital Archive website

<http://pancalarchive.org/keyword/electriquette/>

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

**Annual Luncheon:
May 27, 2016 at the Balboa Park Club**



Our annual luncheon will be held on Friday, May 27. Guest speaker Dr. Molly McClain, University of San Diego Professor of History, will present "A Room of Their Own: The Contribution of Women to the Panama-California Exposition, 1915."

Membership is not required to attend the luncheon. Details will be posted on our website in late April and invitations will be mailed to our members and donors.

Mike Kelly
president@c100.org
<http://www.c100.org>

Restoration of the San Diego Automotive Museum Building

Balboa Park's 1935 California State Building, now home to the San Diego Automotive Museum, was constructed for the 1935-1936 California Pacific International Exposition, also called America's Exposition.

The California State Building was designed, built and furnished with exhibits in a record three months and

opened on the first day of the Exposition, May 29, 1935.

The building was designed by Richard Requa, lead architect of the Exposition, in an Art-Deco design with pre-Columbian-influenced ornamentation.

In 1978 the sites of both the 1915-1916 Panama-California Exposition and the 1935-1936 California

Pacific International Exposition were granted National Landmark status. Despite this recognition the 1935 California State Building hasn't fared well. Roots from large ficus trees have invaded the building in the past, requiring significant repairs to the concrete floor. A recent leak in the roof damaged or destroyed a great deal of material in the library of the Automotive Museum. Even a 1988 restoration of the building failed to restore the long-missing ornamentation that made this building a showplace for the State of California during the 1935-1936 Exposition.

Four large murals above the California State Building's entrance were the work of Hollywood set designer and art director for the 1935 Exposition, Juan Larrinaga, and his team. The murals represented "commerce, industry, agriculture, and the scenic beauty and wonders of California." Each of the murals was 8 x 18 feet, painted on fiber-board to look like tilework.

The Committee of One Hundred and the San Diego Automotive Museum support the restoration of this building to its 1935 appearance. Missing ornamentation should be replaced using permanent materials. The four



Governor Frank Merriam at dedication of California State Building in May 1935.
Courtesy of David Marshall





AMERICA'S EXPOSITION, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

5A-H1140

1935 Postcard shows California State Building as colored by an artist.

murals could be replicated with custom-made cuerda-seca ceramic tiles depicting the same designs as the original murals. Non-historic *Ficus nitida* (Indian Laurel Fig) trees should be removed, opening up views of the building's architecture. Landscaping with more historic, drought-tolerant, plants would enhance the beauty of the restored building much as it appeared to fairgoers in 1935.

As a kickoff to the restoration campaign we plan to install four full-size banners above the building's entrance, with color images in the design of the original murals. The installation will announce restoration plans to the public, garner publicity, and expose potential donors to the advantages of restoring this and other buildings in the Palisades.

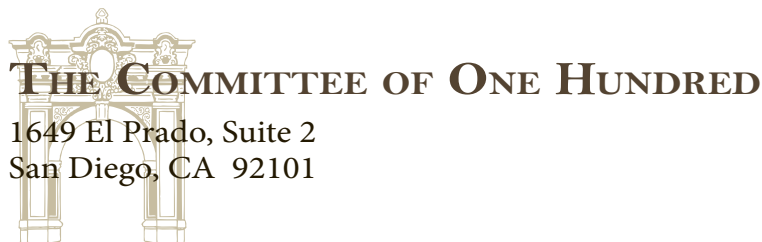
Despite an extensive search of libraries and archives, not a single color photograph of the murals has been found. There is a rather inadequate three-second segment of color film showing the murals in 1935. We are working with artists who will recreate these images in color, using only black and white photographs of the building from 1935-36. Kodachrome



Entrance to Automotive Museum as it is today.

and Agfacolor film for cameras were introduced during 1935 and 1936, the very years of the Exposition. Perhaps somebody reading this article, or seeing the banners above the entrance to the Automotive Museum, will discover a color photograph of the murals.





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1935 Exposition postcard of California State Building.

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and send it to us at:*

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