



THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED

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

www.c100.org

Spring 2018 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Balboa Park is not a world-class destination

The Palisades area, heart of Balboa Park's 1935-1936 California Pacific International Exposition, is due for a renaissance.

Less visited than the Plaza de Panama and El Prado, its once-lovely Plaza de America is a large parking lot. The 1935 California State Building, home to the San Diego Automotive Museum, without its 1935 ornamentation is a nondescript building—even with the recently added murals. The 1935 Electricity and Varied Industries Building, today's Municipal Gymnasium, is an uninspiring building lacking those details that made it an Exposition showcase. The 1935 Federal Building, soon to be home to a Comic-Con museum, is missing the striking 1935 Maya mural painted on glass above its entrance. The condition of the 1935 Starlight (Ford) Bowl is a civic disgrace. The exterior of the Balboa Park Club, venue for many public meetings and events is an eyesore that belies Balboa Park's status as a National Historic Landmark District.

And while the 1915-1916 Panama-California Exposition buildings along El Prado are certainly worthy of photographs, even the buildings in this most beloved historic area have leaky roofs and old sewer lines that get attention only when things go bad; crumbling stucco, peeling paint, needed caulking, and missing ornamentation don't seem to take priority.

Balboa Park needs a dedicated source of funding — more than just a slice of Mission Bay's excess revenue.

Mike Kelly
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San Diego Automotive Museum Murals

The Committee of One Hundred has brought back the long-missing murals that originally graced the entrance to the 1935 California State Building in Balboa Park's Palisades area. These temporary murals are the first step in our fundraising campaign to recreate these four murals in permanent ceramic tiles.



\$500 Buys A Tile. See which tiles are available:
<http://c100.org/murals.php>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

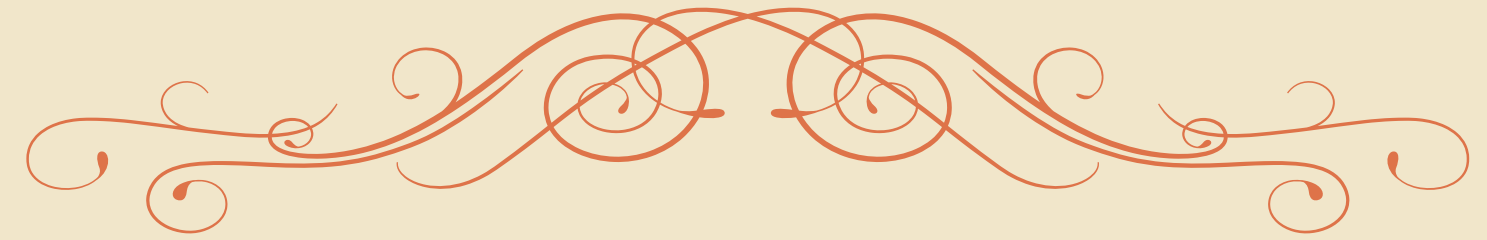
C100 Annual Luncheon: Friday, June 1, 2018
Guest speaker: Wayne Donaldson on Palisades

Awards: Sandy Shapery, Juan Larrinaga

Invitations will be mailed in early May

Let's Restore the Palisades

The Palisades area of Balboa Park was the heart of San Diego's 1935-1936 California Pacific International Exposition. Since that Exposition the pedestrian Plaza de America has been used as a parking lot. Years of deferred maintenance and budget constraints have taken their toll on the Exposition buildings. A Palisades Renaissance with restored buildings, gardens, and a pedestrian-friendly Plaza, will demonstrate Balboa Park's potential as a world-class destination.



1935 Firestone Singing Fountains were the center of attraction in the Plaza de America itself. Seen today as an early version of the fountains at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas or the Dubai Fountain in the United Arab Emirates, our Firestone Singing Fountains offered colored lights and music synchronized with the fountain display.



1935 Electricity and Varied Industries Building (today's Municipal Gymnasium) showing the Firestone "Singing Fountains" in the foreground. The building is missing its Maya-style ornamentation, hanging plants, and a large relief mural representing Industry and Electricity above the entrance. A worn but intact, original 1935 mural still exists on the concrete floor just outside the main entrance.



1935 Ford Building (now home to the Air and Space Museum) showing the Plaza de America in foreground). Renamed the Transportation Building for 1936, when Ford took its exhibits to the Texas Centennial in Dallas, the building gained its historic 450-foot-long mural March of Transportation, designed by Juan Larrinaga. Neglected for years the building escaped demolition and was placed on the National Register in 1973. It was restored and became home to the Aerospace Museum in 1980.



1935 Federal Building (soon to be home to a Comic-Con center/museum) was rehabilitated in 1997. Maya-style ornamentation on the building had deteriorated or was missing altogether. A triangular space above the entrance represented architectural entrances on ruins of the Maya Governor's palace at Uxmal in today's Mexico. A Maya character painted on the glass stands center with smaller figures on each side.



1935 California State Building is missing its Maya-style ornamentation, hanging plants, and two California State bears on the corners of the roof. The Committee of One Hundred recently brought back the four original murals above the entrance and is raising funds to replace these temporary images with permanent ceramic tile. The murals depicted California scenes representing Commerce, Scenic Beauty, Agriculture, and Industry. Buy-a-Tile for \$500, link on Page 1.



1915 New Mexico State Building (today's Balboa Park Club) served as the Palace of Education for the 1935 Exposition. Architect Requa added a large room in back for exhibits and covered the central courtyard with a peaked roof, creating visual conflict with the building's pueblo style. Today's exterior is in disrepair, needing stucco, paint and replacement of several missing and damaged wooden vigas.



1935 Ford Bowl (now Starlight Bowl), long-abandoned and overgrown with weeds, is undergoing a slow renovation. Save Starlight volunteers are working with the City of San Diego to rejuvenate this historic venue. San Diegans remember the venue's peak years of family theater and look forward to seeing it come alive again for another generation.



1935 Hollywood Motion Picture Hall of Fame (today's Palisades Building) is home to the Puppet Theater, a Recital Hall, and City offices). Like the 1915 New Mexico Building (now the Balboa Park Club), it was designed in the pueblo style reminiscent of the Southwest. It is missing some original ornamentation and the Art-Deco Hollywood sign.





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Maya mural above entrance to 1935
Federal Building



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