SMITHSONIAN EXHIBITION OPENS

In the 80 years between the beginning of the Mexican War and the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924, the American West was re-created. *Faces of the Frontier: Photographic Portraits from the American West, 1845-1924*, organized by the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, chronicles those changes through photographs of the men and women who contributed to the transformation of the region’s nature and identity.

More than 100 photographs of leaders, statesmen, soldiers, activists, laborers, criminals, and entertainers are presented in this exhibition. Many of the names are familiar and include Sitting Bull, Kit Carson, George Custer, Geronimo, Jesse James, Annie Oakley, Theodore Roosevelt, and Brigham Young.

“These portraits provide a unique glimpse into the history of the American West,” said David Kahn, Executive Director of San Diego History Center. “The exhibition illustrates how photography influenced the understanding of the West by giving a face to the changing shape of the country.”

*Faces of the Frontier* presents the portraits in four general themes: land, exploration, discord, and possibilities. It chronicles events such as the completion of the transcontinental railroad, ongoing conflicts between Native Americans and non-natives, the emergence of the national parks movement, the admittance of 19 new states west of the Mississippi, and the philosophy of manifest destiny that inspired explorers to connect the West to the already established East.

The vintage photographs of those who represent this historical time are primarily drawn from the collection of the National Portrait Gallery and include images from noted photographers of the period such as Charles Milton Bell, Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner, Edward Sheriff Curtis, and Eadweard Muybridge. Introduced in 1839, photography reshaped the way in which Americans in the East came to understand the West; photography presented visual representations of the new land and the different cultures and people who inhabited the West.

San Diego History Center is the only West Coast venue for this traveling exhibition. During its 10 weeks at SDHC, from March 12 to June 6, 2010, the exhibition will be augmented by a full array of public programs for all ages.

- Christianne Penunuri, Public Relations
In 2009, our Board of Trustees announced the launching of an exciting $2,250,000 fund raising initiative, the Campaign for Excellence. The Campaign is intended to provide seed money to support new exhibitions, school programs, collections, and earned income opportunities. The Campaign will also provide much needed operating support for our organization during one of the most challenging economic downturns in memory.

Trustees, staff, and the members of our newly organized Advisory Committee have been working closely together in order to meet the Campaign goal. I am pleased to report that as of this writing, over $850,000 in outright gifts and pledges have been secured. Our sincere thanks go to the Legler Benbough Foundation, which got the Campaign for Excellence off to a great start with a $100,000 challenge gift that generated more than $400,000 in matching gifts. We have also received a wonderful $250,000 challenge gift from an anonymous donor that must now be matched dollar for dollar. Another $50,000 challenge gift has been received from the Parker Foundation that we must match at a two-to-one ratio. Therefore, in the immediate future we are focusing our energies on identifying $350,000 needed to fully match the $250,000 and $50,000 challenge gifts. Once we have done so, we will have over $1,200,000 in hand and be more than half way towards meeting our overall $2,250,000 campaign goal.

We are extremely grateful to all of our friends who have donated so generously to help guarantee a bright future for the San Diego History Center. We are particularly excited by the momentum we have managed to generate despite the economic uncertainties everyone is facing. This is a clear indication of the high regard San Diegans have for our organization.

Updates about the Campaign for Excellence will be communicated throughout the year. We also plan to provide each and very one of our members and friends with information about how to participate in helping to make the Campaign a complete success. Contributions earmarked to help us match our two current Challenge Gifts are especially welcome at this time.

Best wishes,

David M. Kahn
Executive Director
SAVE THE DATE! HISTORY MAKERS
2010 HONORS QUALCOMM, INCORPORATED

Mark June 5, 2010 on your calendars and be part of a celebration of San Diego History. History Makers is the San Diego History Center’s signature fundraising event. It was conceived to provide an opportunity to recognize people and organizations that are linked in a significant way to San Diego and have contributed to our city’s aspirations and achievements. Our 2010 honoree, Qualcomm, Incorporated has truly made history in San Diego. We will recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions Qualcomm and its employees have made to our community. This local corporation has put San Diego “on the map” as a center for technological innovation and continues to lead as an extraordinarily generous and responsible corporate citizen.

The event will be held at Irwin M. Jacobs Qualcomm Hall, 5775 Morehouse Drive. Tickets are available at www.sandiegohistory.org. For more information call (619) 232-6203 ext. 103.

- Judy Schragge, Interim Development Director

UNEXPECTED TREASURES:
J.D. SALINGER IN THE PHOTO COLLECTION

San Diego History Center’s enormous photograph collection is filled with unexpected treasures. This was recently demonstrated on the occasion of the death of famed author J.D. Salinger. Photographs by Antony di Gesu captured Salinger in a wonderful series of stark images shot in 1952 just after the publication of The Catcher in the Rye. In 1996, di Gesu’s entire body of work was donated to the History Center by his widow, Alice. Because Salinger was an intensely private person, images of him are extremely rare. The availability of the History Center’s images generated a great deal of interest following his death. Getty Images is currently handling the rights management and distribution of these unique portraits.

History Center images of Salinger have appeared in the New York Times, on the cover of the French magazine Les Inrockuptibles, and will be featured in a forthcoming documentary.

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Financial support is provided by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. San Diego History Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people of all ages learn about, and enjoy, the history of San Diego, and to appreciate how our past, present, and future are interrelated.
Longtime San Diegans will remember the iconic sign along San Diego Bay’s waterfront directing Port visitors to three of the Bay’s notable venues: Anthony’s Fish Grotto, the Star of India, and the Star of the Sea Room. Today, the sign is gone, but not forgotten. The Port of San Diego dismantled the sign, located on the corner of Broadway and Pacific Highway, on September 30, 2009. In November, the sign was donated to the San Diego History Center and delivered in a 600-pound crate to the Balboa Park location and accepted into the permanent collection. The sign was constructed in the early 1960s and sited at Lane Field sometime shortly thereafter. Lane Field, located on 5.7 acres of land on the north side of Broadway, between North Harbor Drive and Pacific Highway, was the home of the San Diego Padres from 1936 to 1957. The property is now being redeveloped to become two bayfront hotels, retail, and underground parking.

Two years ago, the Port of San Diego staff approached the team at the History Center with the offer of the sign for the permanent collection. Knowing that the steel-framed, neon sign is part of San Diego’s history, the collection’s team accepted the donation. This donation will augment existing photos and artifacts from the archives which illustrate the history of San Diego’s waterfront.

“I’m very pleased that it’s finding a suitable place in history. I can’t think of a better place for the sign to reside than in the San Diego History Center,” said Rick Ghio, president and CEO of Anthony’s.

The sign will need renovation and restoration. At this time, the History Center staff is searching for funding for the repairs. When repairs are completed, collections and curatorial staff will work on an appropriate display and/or exhibition for the iconic sign.

- Christianne Penunuri, Public Relations

When faculty and staff members at Hoover High School started planning for its 80th birthday celebrations for the fall of 2010, three faculty members volunteered to make the school’s history a visible part of the anniversary. Ollie Goulston, basketball coach, Vicky Banks, history teacher, and John Michener, multi-media teacher, needed to organize hundreds of artifacts, photographs, publications and data records from Hoover’s past and turn selections from these into engaging and informative displays, which would be ready for public viewing in the fall. In short, a lot of what happens behind the scenes at a history museum every day.

When Ms. Banks contacted the Education Department at San Diego History Center for assistance, it was decided to involve the Collections and Exhibitions Departments too. We designed a series of workshops dealing with many aspects of museum operation: from the basics of collection cataloging, archiving, storage and preservation, to exhibition development, design and interpretation. The first workshop was presented by Victoria Cranner, Director of Collections and Registrar, at SDHC to a group of 15 Hoover faculty members. The teachers, as well as Hoover alumni and students, will continue to participate in the rest of the workshops. As SDHC celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2009, the collaboration between two contemporaries in San Diego history seems even more fitting!

- Marinta Skupin, Director of Education

Vice Principal Angela Kinlaw, John Michener, Vicky Banks, Simone Arias and Jan Donaldson, from Hoover High School.
HISTORY HAPPENINGS AT SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER

In rows: 1) School in the Park student demonstrating the types of metal armor worn by the Spanish Conquistadors. Photo by Cesar Ramirez. 2) David Kahn and Board President Robert Adelizzi accept an award from San Diego Metropolitan Magazine as “Metro Movers to Watch in 2010.” Photo by Tam Joslin. 3) San Diego NOW focuses on the effects of budget shortfalls on local K-12 education in San Diego. Photo by Gabe Selak. 4) Docents lead a tour through the exhibition, San Diego Style. 5) Gentlemen’s Martini Night brought together local community leaders for a discussion of various LGBT issues including “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” Photo by Tam Joslin. 6) Designer Arlene Fisch and San Diego Style Guest Curator Tim Long discuss criteria for permanent museum collections at the Costume Council reception. Photo by Tam Joslin.
HUSH, HUSH.....SOMEBODY’S CALLING MY NAME
BLACK STORYTELLERS VISIT HISTORY CENTER

San Diego History Center was proud to welcome the Black Storytellers of San Diego, Inc. on Saturday, February 6, for a unique program, featuring a documentary film entitled Hush, Hush….Somebody’s Calling My Name, interspersed with ‘live’ storytelling by BSSD’s fascinating troupe of four storytellers.

The film provided stories of local African American San Diegans describing their experiences growing up in San Diego County. Guests to the program experienced a wave of emotions, hearing childhood memories of play, food, church, and the growth of their community. These stories were mingled with sensitive issues about segregation, the Civil Rights Movement, and the election of our first African-American president, Barack Obama. All stories were told through letters, personal remembrances, and song. The storytellers included Dr. Anjennette McFarlin, Vericona Henson Phillips, Linda McFarlin, Walter McCoy, and singer, Fabiola Johnson.

- Gabe Selak, Public Programs Manager

SERRA MUSEUM RE-OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

San Diego History Center is excited to partner with Dr. Iris Engstrand and the History Department at University of San Diego to reopen the Junipero Serra Museum on weekends. Interns Joseph Seymour, Carolina Colburn, and Heidi Trent with assistance from Dr. Engstrand and SDHC staff, will be collaborating to introduce new interpretation to the site as well as new public programs, tours and experiences for our visitors. In addition, elementary education programs continue at the site with over 10,000 school children visiting in 2009. The new public museum hours are Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm. Adult tours of the site are available by calling 619-232-6203, ext.129. School groups can arrange a visit by calling 619-232-6203, ext. 112.

- Gabe Selak, Public Programs Manager
MEET THE NEW TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees at San Diego History Center welcome its recently-elected members. They hope to meet you at upcoming events!

Sandra Dijkstra is a distinguished literary agent for writers such as Amy Tan and scholars such as Kevin Starr. She holds a Ph.D. in French Literature. In addition, she and her husband Bram are noted art collectors and Bram has volunteered his time to help organize exhibitions at San Diego History Center.

Lucy Jackson is a Vice President and Mission Hills Branch Manager of San Diego National Bank. Lucy has been in banking for many years and has also been actively involved in the non-profit sector. She has served on the board of Girl Scouts, San Diego Imperial Council, and is currently Board Chair for Classics for Kids and The Classic Philharmonic.

Bill Lawrence has been an active volunteer in many organizations and was Chairman of the Save Our Heritage Organization. He publishes the website BorregoModern.com and is currently Assistant Director of Engineering at KFMB.

Sandra Perlatti is Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications for The Corky McMillin Companies. She has been an active member of the Building Industry Association of San Diego. In 1996, she was awarded the organization’s Presidential Award for outstanding contributions to the industry and in 2000 became the second woman to be inducted into the local industry’s Hall of Fame. Sandra played a key role in organizing the 2008 History Makers Gala.

Margie Warner received her MA in Public History from University of San Diego. While studying at USD, Margie did much of her thesis research right here at the San Diego History Center where she was also a volunteer. She has served on the San Diego County Historic Site Board and the board of the Zoological Society of San Diego.

GIFTS INFUSED WITH HISTORY

Paul Silvera’s transformation of “The History Store” provides a way to bring San Diego history into your home. It offers ideas, information and products that appeal to tourists who fall in love with America’s Finest City, as well as San Diegans who want to own historically relevant pieces to decorate their world or to give as a gift.

“Our history is diverse, and so the product we present needs to reflect that,” says Silvera. “The store is loaded with many San Diego experiences. Our new inventory includes military memorabilia, Mexican handicrafts, surfer stuff, and architectural paraphernalia.”

Look for “InStore” events and merchandising that highlights specific neighborhoods and architectural styles. Silvera’s new retail offerings further reinforce San Diego History Center as a valuable community resource. Paul invites you to come in and see what we have in store for you. Bring home the history!

BRING HOME THE HISTORY 30% OFF WALL ART
MARCH

Monday, March 15, 10:00am – 11:00am
*HISTORY FOR HALF PINTS: “TEDDY BEAR PICNIC”

Wednesday, March 17, 11:00am
*FACE TO FACE GALLERY TALK: HELEN HUNT JACKSON

Thursday, March 18, 6:00pm
**LECTURE: FASHION FOIBLES WITH HISTORIAN, SUSAN LAZEAR

Saturday, March 20, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
SCIENCE OF HISTORY FAMILY DAY

Wednesday, March 24, 5:30pm – 7:30pm
HISTORIC PLACES: CELEBRATING THE ARCHITECTURE OF RICHARD REQUA
Please Note: Attendance is limited to 50 people. Early registration is recommended.

Thursday, March 25, 6:00pm – 7:30pm
SAN DIEGO NOW: TEXTING WHILE DRIVING: GROWING CONCERNS

Saturday, March 27, 10:00am – 3:00pm
**QUINCEAÑERA EXPO

APRIL

Saturday, April 10, 1:00pm
LECTURE, BOOK SIGNING & GARDEN TOUR WITH GARDENING EXPERT AND AUTHOR, PAT WELSH

Wednesday, April 14, 11:00am
*FACE TO FACE GALLERY TALK: ANDREAS PICO

Thursday, April 15, 6:00pm
LECTURE: JOURNEY OF ITALIAN AMERICANS WITH HISTORIAN, VINCHENZA SCARPACI

Monday, April 19, 10:00am
HISTORY FOR HALF PINTS: IT’S A FAIRYLAND!

Thursday, April 22, 6:00pm - 7:30pm
SAN DIEGO NOW: THE DRAW OF SAN DIEGO: FLUCTUATING POPULATION GROWTH & DECLINE

MAY

Thursday, May 6, 6:00pm
*LECTURE: VISIONS (AND REVISIONS) OF ENCOUNTERS AND WESTERN EXPANSION WITH STEPHEN ARON, PROFESSOR, UCLA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Tuesday, May 11, 6:00pm
LECTURE AND BOOKSIGNING: BASEBALL AMERICANA WITH AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN, HARRY KATZ

Wednesday, May 12, 11:00am
*FACE TO FACE GALLERY TALK: SEATED MAN WITH CHINESE SERVANT

Monday, May 17, 10:00am – 11:00am
HISTORY FOR HALF PINTS: HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Thursday, May 20, 6:00pm
SAN DIEGO NOW: CALIFORNIA SHAKE OUT! ANTICIPATING THE NEXT EARTHQUAKE

UPCOMING IN JUNE

Saturday, JUNE 5
HISTORY MAKERS

*Program is presented in conjunction with the exhibition Faces of the Frontier: Photographic Portraits from the American West, 1845-1924.

**Program is presented in conjunction with the exhibition San Diego Style.

For more information about our events or to make a reservation, call (619) 232-6203 ext. 129 or visit www.sandiegohistory.org/calendar.

All locations are San Diego History Center, Balboa Park, unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change or cancellation.