History Center Celebrates Its 90th Year

Proud of our past and focused on our future.

“San Diego has had such an influx of residents in recent years that they hardly had the opportunity of acquainting themselves with the traditions, origin and history of San Diego...” This quote from a member of the San Diego Historical Society’s Board of Trustees in 1929 explains the impetus for beginning the organization the previous year.

As we look forward to 2018—the History Center’s 90th year—we are in a similar situation. From 1900 to 1930, San Diego’s population jumped from 17,700 to 147,995. Since then, this binational region has ballooned to 3.3 million people, and, just like in 1929, many have not had the “opportunity to acquainting themselves” with what San Diego is and who San Diegans are.

Please join us in 2018 as the History Center embarks on a broad outreach campaign to gather stories, experiences, and perspectives from as large and diverse an audience of San Diegans as possible to explore our collective past. This crowd-sourced approach will help us create more relevant and inclusive exhibitions, programs that inspire thought and reflection, and online communities that promote understanding through discourse.

Mark your calendars now for our Makers of San Diego History on Saturday, April 21, 2018 (note date change from March 24, 2018), which will kick off major new priorities, including developing a new permanent exhibition of our region’s history, rejuvenating the Serra Museum, launching a program for scholarship, and building the endowment to ensure the organization’s long-term sustainability.

BY MATTHEW SCHIFF, MARKETING DIRECTOR
The San Diego History Center tells the diverse story of our region—past, present, and future—educates and enriches our community, preserves our history and fosters civic pride.

San Diego History Center
Board of Trustees
President and Chairman
Thompson Fetter
Vice President
Joseph Craver
John Morrell
Robert Watkins
Treasurer
Frank Alessi
Secretary
Allan Wasserman
President Emeritus
Robert F. Adelizzi
Hal Sadler
Trustees
Chuck Bieler
Richard Bregante
Josh Buchholz
Raymond Carpenter
Brian Chambers
Debby Cushman-Parrish
Jim Fitzpatrick
Gayle Hom
Robert A. Kittle
Brian Mooney
Frank L. Pavel, DMD
Tom Sayer, Jr.
Scott Peterson
Jim Segal
Ellis C. Smith
Charles Van Vechten
Stephen B. Williams

Advisory Board
Malin Burnham
Thomas A. Caughlan
M. Wayne Donaldson
Dan Eaton
Kevin J. Heinly
Tom Karlo
Bob Kelly
Helen Kinnard
Yvonne W. Larsen
David Malcolm
Seth W. Mallios, Ph.D.
Kay Porter
Hon. Lynn Schenk
Drew Schlosberg
Mary L. Walshok, Ph.D.
Margie Warner
Hon. Pete Wilson
Karin E. Winner

Executive Director
William Lawrence

Historian
Iris Engstrand, PhD

Times Editor
Matthew Schiff

Copy Editor
Chris Zook

Photo Editor
Chris Travers

Graphic Design
Jennifer Cadam

OUR MISSION

 Permanent Exhibition of San Diego History

As the San Diego History Center enters its 90th year in 2018, I’m reminded of our origins as the San Diego Historical Society and would like to highlight what I believe will prove to be the most important project we have undertaken since we moved our base of operations from the Serra Museum to Balboa Park in 1982.

I’m speaking of the new, upcoming permanent exhibition of San Diego history. This project has been a goal for the past 36 years. Presently, our current overview history exhibition is inadequate and does not properly acquaint the visitor with a full survey of this region’s past. For example, there is no reference to the development of our region since the late 1930s or to the myriad communities interwoven into the fabric of this region.

Lately, we have been encouraged, even challenged, by potential donors to “think big.” We envision a comprehensive, interactive, and perpetually changing exhibition. Bill Lawrence and Iris Engstrand toured several other benchmark exhibitions in Washington state, New Mexico, and Colorado. We are inspired by their scope and the extensive community collaboration involved in creating them and seek to deliver this for San Diego.

BY TOM FETTER, BOARD PRESIDENT

 Thinking Big

“Thinking big” for staff at the History Center means thinking differently about our organization and its role in our community. As President Fetter notes, the new permanent exhibition of San Diego history will be transformative for us.

Why? In order for us to be relevant and to secure the organization’s future, we need to connect with new and diverse communities. In the past, many of these communities have been, at times, omitted in the greater historical narrative. We need to be open and inclusive. We need to change the misconception that history is boring and has little relevance to our everyday lives.

Our transformation cannot happen without you. Over the next several months, we will be reaching out to you, asking for your stories and experiences. These community-sourced perspectives will help us provide a more complete description of our region. We will also be asking for your financial support and help in spreading the word about the exciting changes taking place at the History Center. Our 90th year offers great opportunity to deliver on our potential—that the History Center becomes a vibrant community resource where our region’s history inspires us to be our best and celebrates what makes this place unique.

BY BILL LAWRENCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

 2018 OFFICIAL SELECTION
San Diego Jewish Film Festival

Ends of the Earth Accepted to Jewish Film Fest

Big-screen viewings on Feb. 13 & 14

To the Ends of the Earth: A Portrait of Jewish San Diego, a co-production of Cinewest Productions and the San Diego History Center is based on over 50 interviews conducted by local filmmaker, Isaac Artenstein, including descendants of early Jewish pioneers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and academics, as well as avant-garde artists, rabbis, and surfers. It creates a living portrait of a vibrant and culturally-dynamic community that has thrived in this region for over 150 years. This film is the companion to the exhibition Celebrate San Diego: The History & Heritage of San Diego’s Jewish Community, which is currently on exhibit at the History Center in Balboa Park. The film and exhibition bring the rare voices of pioneering San Diego Jews, as well as those of today, into one immersive experience based on a theme of determination, innovation, and ingenuity. The film also incorporates rare historical photographs creating a vibrant cinematic interplay between the natural and cultural landscapes of our region.

To the Ends of the Earth will be screened at the Jewish Film Festival on February 13 & 14 at Mira Mesa Edwards Cinema at 8pm & 14 Edwards San Marco Stadium 18 at 5pm, respectively.

BY MATTHEW SCHIFF, MARKETING DIRECTOR
SDHC Volunteer Receives Inspiration Award

In recognition of their significant and long-term contributions of service to Balboa Park and/or to one or more of the organizations in the Park, outstanding volunteers are selected each year to receive a Friends of Balboa Park Inspiration Award. San Diego History Center volunteer Barry Goldlust was selected as a 2017 recipient along with four other dedicated Balboa Park volunteers.

Barry has donated close to 600 hours over the last two years in the roles of Gallery Guide, Docent, and, most recently, Community Historian. His engagement techniques and historical research shine through when he interacts with groups of all ages during conversations in the galleries, guided tours, and public presentations.

Congratulations to Barry! We sincerely appreciate all of our devoted and enthusiastic volunteers for their donation of time and talents to SDHC.

BY ALISON HENDRICKSON, VISITOR & VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

A guided tour of the Junipero Serra Museum is a great way to spend a weekend day!

Our one-hour, docent-led tours highlight the many inhabitants of the Presidio Hill site over the centuries and the importance of their relationship to the San Diego River. Tours start in the museum and then travel outdoors to Presidio Hill, providing visitors with an overview of the site’s environmental, cultural, and political history and impact on San Diego’s development.

This is one of the exciting ways we are activating the Serra Museum and surrounding grounds as we head into 2018 and implement Phase II of the Serra Museum Interpretive Plan.

Check our Events Calendar for tour dates added regularly: www.sandiegohistory.org/events/. Tours are open to the public and free with Give Forward admission.

BY ALISON HENDRICKSON, VISITOR & VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

New Program Offers Insight into Archives

Dedicated volunteers and studious interns are integral to the success of the History Center’s programs exhibitions. The San Diego History Center is pleased to partner with the Aaron Price Fellows Program and to offer unique opportunities for Fellows to work with archival material in the collections, broaden their horizons, and expose them to possible career paths they may be considering. In addition, Fellows may earn scholarships through their work.

We are pleased to welcome Kisi Apaak as the History Center’s newest intern. A sophomore at Point Loma High School, she is assisting Archivist Renato Rodriguez in the Document Archives. Kisi is transcribing handwritten autobiographies of the Pioneer Society of San Diego. These autobiographies are first-person accounts of the women who travelled to and settled in San Diego before 1880. The accounts give us a glimpse of what life was like in San Diego through the eyes of women who lived here. Thanks to Kisi, these histories will eventually be accessible for researchers, genealogists, students, and the general public to view online. We hope you will find these stories as fascinating as we do.

BY RENATO RODRIGUEZ, ARCHIVIST

AARON PRICE FELLOW, KISI APAAK, WORKS TO TRANSCRIBE HANDWRITTEN DIARIES IN THE DOCUMENT COLLECTION.
San Diego Voices
Expanding the Legacy Oral History Program

Oral history offers unique benefits that no other historical resource provides. One of its most valuable characteristics is that it allows us to learn about the viewpoints and experiences of those who do not often appear in the historical record. Everyday people, the tenor and feeling of everyday life, and a sense of place can get lost if we rely solely on the written record. Through their own stories and words, oral history narrators can tell us their versions of events, as well as aspirations and disappointments.

The History Center is committed to capturing the lives and reflections of contemporary San Diegans through the newly launched San Diego Voices project. San Diego Voices is a real-time, feet-on-the-street, community-engagement project in which we are constantly listening, documenting, following up, sharing, and disseminating through various vehicles and formats. San Diego Voices celebrates our unique neighborhoods and diverse people. It documents history by collecting the stories of those who have experienced it. Stay tuned to see, hear, and meet fellow San Diegans through this new initiative!

Fashion Redux Returns This Spring

With 90 years of history behind us, the History Center is looking ahead to Fashion Redux by looking back at those nine decades of fashion.

The History Center’s collaboration with the San Diego Mesa College Fashion program goes into another year but this year, the celebration of fashion will have an exhibition component to it.

Beginning in mid-February, visitors will experience the exhibition containing pieces from the History Center’s textile collection and the works of several fashion students. On April 26, the four student finalists’ work will be on display and only one will receive the People’s Choice Award at a soirée and fashion show you won’t want to miss!

History Center Honors Our Military
Mail Call and Navajo Code Talker Event Draw Crowds

November was full of support for our military—past and present—at the History Center. On November 8, we opened our Mail Call exhibition, on loan from the Smithsonian, which presents visitors with the concept of military mail and the vital link it makes between the battlefront and the home front. While the subject itself is universal to the armed forces globally, we added a few pieces from the History Center collection to supplement the exhibition and give it a San Diego angle. Shortly after opening, the History Center screened, for the first time locally, a documentary film about the World War II Navajo Code Talkers, a group of elite warriors who used their native Navajo language as code to help the U.S. military win its island-hopping campaign against the Japanese. The event hosted around 200 attendees who toured Mail Call, witnessed a full Marine color guard, viewed the documentary, and participated in a Q&A session with filmmaker George A. Colburn. As always, the History Center is proud to honor our great military members who, in addition to providing for our national defense, are a vital presence within the San Diego community.
The Journal of San Diego History Wins Award

At the 44th Annual Excellence in Journalism Awards, held at the Jacobs Center at Market Creek on October 24, The Journal of San Diego History and its co-editors, Dr. Iris Engstrand and Dr. Molly McClain, won first place in the “Magazine-History” category for the publication’s quality and extensive documentation of various stories and events throughout our region’s history. In addition, the publication is the longest-continuously published, peer-reviewed scholarly journal in the City of San Diego. Honored amongst other community publications like San Diego Zoo Global’s ZOONOOZ, Ranch & Coast, and San Diego Magazine, the History Center is proud of Iris, Molly, designer Allen Wynar, and the other editors dedicated to the continued production of such a publication.

October 12, aside from being the day Christopher Columbus sighted land in the Caribbean, was the day in 2016 the History Center instituted its new admissions policy called Give Forward. With now a year’s worth of compiled data, we gain a macro-view of its efficacy and response from the public.

Boosting access to our museums and getting many more people through the door were our primary goals with this initiative. We are pleased to announce that total museum visitation since Give Forward began is up 81% over last year. That means we almost doubled the number of people being exposed to San Diego’s past at one of our two sites. The other metric we’re proud to share is that visitation from zip codes deemed “underserved” by The City of San Diego is up 42%.

This number is higher than originally projected and represents what we always knew to be true—that people do find history interesting and want to learn more about it.

After visitors experience the museum and have seen the exhibitions, they pass a donation box on their way out the door. And though we don’t keep tabs on what each person contributes, almost everyone puts in something. And that’s where the relationship starts. Who knows where it goes from there? Membership? Donation? Gift? And if it goes no further, no problem; it’s our mission to engage with as many people as possible.

By Matthew Schiff, Marketing Director
Extraordinary

The collective history of our region has been shaped by the following generous cumulative gifts:

$20,000–$49,999

- Thomas C. Ackermann Foundation
- Willis M. and Claudia R. Allen / Crystal Pier Hotel and Cottages
- American Tunkboat Association
- Belfour Park Online Collaborative
- John and Elizabeth Bergan
- The Betty Brown 1999 Revocable Trust
- Emily Black
- Dr. and Mrs. Richard E. Bowers
- Richard and Rosalie Bresciani
- Brahms Communities
- Sheldon Brothers
- Bumble Bee Foods
- Carleton Management, Inc.
- Ray and Sue Carpenter
- Armstead Carter
- Chaise Art Companies
- Chicken of the Sea
- Commerce Bank
- Costco Wholesale
- Richard and Stephanie Coutts
- Clare R. Crane
- The J. Crevello Foundation
- DB Installations, Inc.
- De Felice Family Foundation
- Estate of J. Ellison
- Anna L. Evans
- The Palladino Communities, Inc.
- Richard Forward
- John A. Foster
- Foster Family Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation
- L. Galtman Advised Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation
- George and Alison Gildred
- The Faye Dobbins Gonzalez Foundation
- Virginia Grady
- James Grady and Renee Lamb
- Sarah White and David Gray
- James H. Hall
- Mary Ann and Bruce Hazard
- Laurie Sefton Henson and Rowan Sefton Henson
- Ann Lipscomb Hill
- Joseph and Rose Ellen Howard
- Joseph E. Jessop Jr.
- Kaplan Family 1997 Trust
- Leslie Kittredge and Patricia K. Hagan
- Janet G. Klauber and Jim Meli
- Peter R. LaDow
- William and Suzanne Lawrence
- Dan J. Liskel
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- The Meyer Charitable Foundation
- Lynn and Douglas Mooney
- David Morgan Estate
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Constance Nelson
- Northern Trust Bank of California
- Northrop Grumman
- Mary E. Ostrander
- Susan and Art Penaides
- Qualcomm, Inc.
- RedMed Corp.
- Redhen H. Fleet Foundation
- Rose Family Foundation
- Rick Engineering Company
- Rial’s San Diego Charitable Foundation
- The Ruth Lane Charitable Foundation
- Hal and Mary Sather
- Steven Scheuer and Aida Brill
- Security Pacific Foundation
- Dr. Susan Fund
- Kevin and Jil Sapphire
- StarKist Co.
- Janet Sutter
- Ross and Elizabeth Tharp
- Barbara G. Wehrig
- Paula and Allan Wasserman
- Charles and Randi Wax
- Stephanie and Stephen Williams
- Anonymous

$20,000–$49,999

- Charles and Ruth Billingsley Foundation
- Martin Carlsen
- Florence Christman
- Mary Hollis Clark
- Helen K. and James S. Copley Foundation
- Council on Library and Information Resources
- Cubic Corporation
- Doe Charitable Trust
- Kim and Marilyn Fletcher
- The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, Inc.
- Great American First Savings Bank
- Justine and Charles Guthrie
- The Heller Foundation of San Diego
- John and Dorothy Helm
- The Carol & Henry F. Hunte Fund at The San Diego Foundation
- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- The James Irvine Foundation
- Philip M. and Betty June Klauber
- Marian Ba
- Malin and Roberta Burnham
- The Corky McMillin Companies
- County of San Diego
- Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation
- I. Lehman Trust
- Eddy Marital Trust
- Milburn Family Estate
- Ann Navarra
- The Parker Foundation (Gerald & Inez Grant Parker)
- Patrons of the Prado
- Quest For Truth Foundation
- San Diego Gas & Electric
- J. W. Sefton Foundation
- Virginia Hogan Warner and George Pitt Warner
- Weingart-Price Fund
- Wells Fargo Bank

$50,000–$99,999

- Robert and Tommi Adelizzi
- Allied Signal Companies
- Carlton and Eileen Appichly
- Atlas Hotels
- Oliver H. Ayres
- Alfred C. Bernst
- Diane and David Canedo
- David C. Copley
- Cushion Foundation
- Cymar, Inc.
- Toni and Donald Daley Sr.
- David Whitemire Hearst Jr. Foundation
- Senda and Bram Dijkstra
- Iris HW. Engstrand, Ph.D.
- The Faverat Fund
- Samuel H. and John Henry Fox Foundation
- Lyn and Philip Gildred
- The Gildred Foundation
- The Harvey Family Fund at The San Diego Foundation
- Helen and Webster Kinnaid
- Allan S. and Jean R. Klauber
- The Lieford Family
- David M. and Alice K. Miller
- Margaret F. Penninger

$100,000–$249,999

- Sandra Perlatti
- Kathleen Hall Porter and David Swig Porter
- The Arthur and Jeanette Pratt Memorial Fund
- R.E. Hazard Contracting Company
- Robinsons-May
- Ryan Family Charitable Foundation
- San Diego International Art Program
- San Diego Revitalization Corporation
- SBC
- Christopher and Karen Sickels
- George Silvani
- Emily Switters
- The Thursday Club
- John M. and Sally B. Thornton
- Celeste and Albert Eugene Treppe
- U.S. Bank
- Union Bank
- Robert and Ginger Wallace
- Thomas and Neil Wals
- Samuel H. French and Katherine Weaver French Fund
- James West
- Barbara J. Witherow
- The Frank C. Wood Memorial Fund
- at The San Diego Foundation

$250,000–$499,999

- Marian Ba
- Malin and Roberta Burnham
- The Corky McMillin Companies
- County of San Diego
- Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation
- I. Lehman Trust
- Eddy Marital Trust
- Milburn Family Estate
- Ann Navarra
- The Parker Foundation (Gerald & Inez Grant Parker)
- Patrons of the Prado
- Quest For Truth Foundation
- San Diego Gas & Electric
- J. W. Sefton Foundation
- Virginia Hogan Warner and George Pitt Warner
- Weingart-Price Fund
- Wells Fargo Bank
Leadership

Philanthropy has been greatly enhanced by the contributions as of October 2017.

$500,000-$999,999

Jane and Thompson Fetter
The Legler Benbough Foundation
Phyllis H. Paul Trust
Price Philanthropies
Elaine Sweet

$1,000,000 +

Florence Chambers Newkirk
The City of San Diego
Richard Dyson
Parker H. Jackson & Joseph Blankenship
George W. Marston
San Diego River Conservancy / State Coastal Conservancy
Donna Sefton
San Diego History Center
FY 2017
July 2016 – June 2017

Revenue

- Contributions (45%)
- Gov’t Grants (8%)
- Store/Photo Sales (7%)
- Rentals/Special Event Rentals (6%)
- Admissions (4%)
- Membership (4%)
- Program Revenues (2%)
- Sale of Property (19%)
- Other Revenue & Support (6%)

Revenue* & Support
Total $3,333,643

Expenses

- Exhibitions (24%)
- Education (22%)
- Collections (14%)
- Other Operations (4%)
- General Operating (15%)
- Fundraising (18%)
- Costs of Goods Sold (2%)

Expenses*
Total $3,041,187

* FY17 Audited Financials.
Total assets = $5,119,108
Make a Resolution to Engage With Us

Your membership has benefits for you and the community!

As the History Center approaches its 90th year of preserving San Diego’s diverse past, we are excited to welcome aboard three new team members who are eager to connect with our community and membership. If you have had the pleasure of meeting Piero Berlonghi, Joy Soliven, or me, Samantha Williams, at one of our events, you have felt the enthusiasm we share for our regional history. If you have yet to make our acquaintance, check out the calendar of events for your next opportunity: www.sandiegohistory.org/events.

The San Diego History Center relies on the support of people like you, our members and donors, and plans on showing more appreciation through more member events, offers, and surprises. Last month was our 2017 Annual Meeting with board elections and a hands-on virtual reality experience. More recently, we held an opening reception for our new exhibition, Exquisite Views: Selections from the History Center’s Fine Art Collection, free for members and their guests.

In January, we invite all SDHC Member Families to join us on Sunday, January 28, for The Butterfly Project. Families can participate in hands-on art activities and can view the film “NOT the Last Butterfly.” Special promotions will be offered for new Family/Household Memberships on January 28 only.

Our goal is to host one event every month so our members can stay connected with their History Center, our team, and fellow members. We thank you for your continued support and hope to see you soon!

For questions or comments, please feel free to contact me directly at swilliams@sandiegohistory.org or (619) 232-6203 x121.

BY SAMANTHA WILLIAMS, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Donate Your Vehicle Today!

Support the History Center’s mission and avoid the hassles of selling or repairing your car, truck, boat, plane, motorcycle, trailer, or RV. The San Diego History Center partners with CARS™, a national vehicle donation program. CARS™ accepts almost any vehicle that is in one piece and in the continental United States. Towing is completely free and arranged at your convenience.

Donations are tax deductible, and donors receive a receipt from the towing vendor, as well as an IRS form if the contribution exceeds $500.

To support the San Diego History Center today through a vehicle donation, fill out the donation form at www.sandiegohistory.org/donatevehicle/ or call 844-SDHC-CAR (844-734-2227).
Thank You to Our Grantors and Partners!
The San Diego History Center does, and always has been able to, count on the support of its community partners to achieve various aspects of our mission: to tell the diverse story of our region, educate and enrich our community, preserve our history, and foster civic pride.

We sincerely thank the San Diego River Conservancy and the State Coastal Conservancy for their generous grant allowing us to complete Phase II of the Junípero Serra Museum Interpretive Plan.

Funding for this exhibition is provided by the San Diego River Conservancy and State Coastal Conservancy through Proposition 84 the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006.

Our Wish Has Been “Grant”-ed

Junípero Serra Museum awarded $800K for revitalization of exhibitions.

A VIEW OF PADRE DAM IN 1910. SDHC #4821-A.

The original home of the San Diego History Center, the Junípero Serra Museum in Presidio Park, has received a grant of nearly $800,000 to reimagine and rejuvenate the exhibitions inside the main gallery as well as those inside the iconic tower. The grant is the second phase of a two-phase, almost $1 million, project to create a new experience of viewing the past of this historic site through myriad perspectives.

“This is wonderful news for the History Center and the many visitors who make the trek up the hill to the Serra,” explained Executive Director Bill Lawrence. “The Serra Museum is an iconic structure and draws people to it. Now when they arrive, they will engage with new exhibitions that employ new and exciting technologies that more completely tell the stories of the various groups who have lived near and along this region’s namesake river.”

The grant was awarded by the San Diego River Conservancy and State Coastal Conservancy to bring greater awareness to the important role the San Diego River plays in San Diego today as well as in the past. Research, writing, and concept creation begin shortly after the first of the year, and as 2018 progresses, be on the lookout as these new features gradually appear.

This will be a new chapter for the Junípero Serra Museum, and these enhancements will create a renewed sense of reverence for the site and build enthusiasm with locals as well as out-of-town visitors who may want to be a part of this new and exciting undertaking.
“What’s this thing?” Prompts Intergenerational Conversation

Vinyl records, kitchen scales, and floppy disks all need to be interpreted for our younger audiences, but their parents and grandparents know full well what they are! In the more than two months since Marston’s History Emporium: A Hands-on Learning Lab has been open, the gallery has been an excellent venue for intergenerational groups to share and connect with San Diegans of the past. Comments like “when I was in school...” or “I remember...” can be overheard in the space as older visitors encounter objects that remind them of stories to share. Kids in the space are also finding things to be surprised by—many were enamored of the historic toys available for play, describing one as “an old kind of fidget spinner.” And students were shocked to find a photograph showing kids—all the way back in 1954!—dressed in costume for Halloween. We look forward to hearing about more experiences like these as visitors continue to explore hands-on history.

BY SARAH MATTESON, CONTENT & INTERPRETIVE SPECIALIST

Scenes of Grandeur Rarely Seen

Exquisite Views: Selections from the History Center’s Fine Art Collection is the inaugural exhibition in the History Center’s new gallery dedicated solely to works from the Fine Art Collection. The works on view, which have rarely, if ever, been on public view, exemplify the depth and breadth of the History Center’s collection, which focuses on art created in the San Diego region between 1880 and 1950.

“We are pleased to present these works to the public,” says Bill Lawrence, SDHC Executive Director. “They represent an artists’ view of our region and what makes San Diego unique in their view. In addition these works represent our collective past and are examples of why it is important to preserve these for future generations.”

The History Center maintains more than 1,700 pieces of fine art, making it the most representative collection of historical San Diego art in the region. The SDHC’s Art for the Next Century initiative places priority on acquiring new works to continue to build its collections and on preserving them at the highest standards for future generations.

Exquisite Views: Selections from the History Center’s Fine Art Collection is curated by local art scholar, collector, and author Bram Dijkstra, and will be on view throughout most of 2018.

BY KAYTIE JOHNSON, BRUCE KAMERLING FINE ART CURATOR

Fine Art Collection Gets New Curator

Kaytie Johnson to lead Art for the Next Century initiative.

The San Diego History Center has hired Kaytie Johnson as the Bruce Kamerling Fine Art Curator. Johnson’s responsibilities include caring for the existing collection of more than 1,700 pieces while growing and expanding it to include more contemporary pieces and ones with significant San Diego ties, either by subject or artist, and working to engage new art communities in the process.

“The History Center’s plein-air paintings represent a unique genre of creative expression. While the collection is robust, I see ample opportunities for growth, and I’m excited to be a part of that,” says Johnson.

kjohnson@sandiegohistory.org
(619) 232-6203 x141
Exhibitions On View

Legacy in Black
on view until April 15, 2018
View the works of eight African American artists from, or with strong ties to, San Diego.

Marston’s History Emporium: A Hands-on Learning Lab
on view throughout 2018
Who is a San Diegan? Why is it important to know and understand our history? What do objects, photos, and documents say about our past? These are just a few of the questions that will confront visitors at this exhibition!

Celebrate San Diego! The History & Heritage of San Diego’s Jewish Community
on view until May 20, 2018
San Diego’s Jewish pioneers arrived with statehood in 1850, looking for adventure, good weather, better health, and, above all, the opportunity to make the American dream their own.

Mail Call
on view until February 4, 2018
Communication between the battlefield and the home front is not only a link to the familiar, but also a vital ingredient to well-being on both sides.

Part of the Patchwork: Reflections of African American Life in the History Center Archives
on view until April 15, 2018
Inspired by the opening of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, and as a Smithsonian affiliate, the San Diego History Center looked to its own archives to see what stories of African-American life in our region could be uncovered.

Exquisite Views: Selections from the History Center’s Fine Art Collection
on view until April 15, 2018
Exquisite Views is the inaugural exhibition in the History Center’s new gallery dedicated to works from the Fine Art Collection and focuses on those works that have been rarely, if ever, on view to the public.

School Days in Camp
on view in late January 2018
Imagine attending school surrounded by fences and overlooked by guard towers. For children of Japanese descent detained in internment camps during World War II, this was their reality. Did it deter them from learning? How different were their school days from those of students outside the fence? See our new exhibition that highlights what school was like for those students and how they overcame their location to continue their education.

Mark Your Calendars!
The Butterfly Project Film Screening and Art Creation:
Sunday, January 28, 2018, 1:30pm - 4pm
Be a part of an inspiring and profound global experience in the city where the project began. View the moving film NOT the Last Butterfly and join others in creating a lasting memorial of hope and remembrance of the 1.5 million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust. NEW lecture series!

Nyaiawait Chivayp/In Our Words: Kumeyaay Series
Through 2018, a series of speakers from the Kumeyaay community will present, demonstrate, and discuss the richness of Kumeyaay culture and history from the Kumeyaay people themselves.

For a complete list of exhibitions and events, please visit sandiegohistory.org.