

# SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER

OUR COMMUNITY | OUR STORY

VISITOR GUIDE



IN THE HEART OF BALBOA PARK

[sandieghistory.org](http://sandieghistory.org)

## WELCOME!



The **San Diego History Center** and **History Center Store** are where you will discover changing exhibitions, programs and an extensive archive collection that chronicle San Diego's fascinating history as well as explore its present diversity and future potential.

### Research Library and Archives



Home to more than three miles of shelved documents and over two million historic photographs—one of the largest collections on the West Coast.

W-F, 9:30-1 pm Walk-In Research  
M & T, 9-5 pm; W-F, 1:30-5 pm  
One-on-One Appointments

### Junípero Serra Museum



The Serra Museum, in Presidio Park, is one of the most familiar landmarks in San Diego. As a major symbol of the city, it stands atop the hill recognized as the site where California began.

### Japanese American Historical Society of SD



JAHSSD recognizes the contributions Japanese Americans have made to the San Diego region by preserving and making available artifacts, photographs, and other information chronicling their history and experiences.



We invite the public of all ages to come into our museum without paying a traditional admission price.

Your admission has been paid by an anonymous supporter of the San Diego History Center and we ask you to determine the value of your visit and demonstrate that with a tax-deductible donation should you choose. We offer the opportunity for visitors to **Give Forward** to future visitors but it is not mandatory.

For more information on museum programs and exhibitions visit [SanDiegoHistory.org](http://SanDiegoHistory.org)

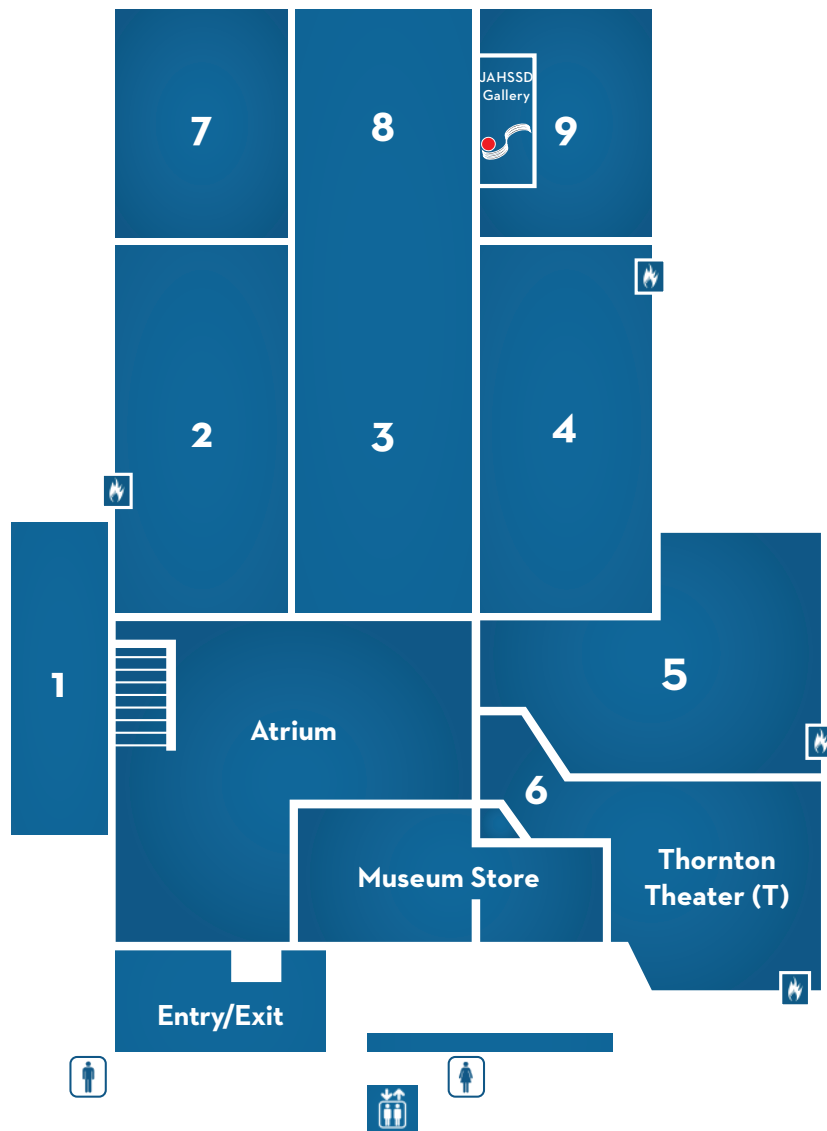


**SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER**

1649 El Prado, Suite 3 | San Diego, CA 92101

**JUNÍPERO SERRA MUSEUM**

2727 Presidio Drive | San Diego, CA 92103



**I'M NOT LIKE YOU: NOTES FROM THE SAN DIEGO UNDERGROUND**

**GALLERY 1:** This is an exhibition celebrating the vibrant facets of self-expression that distinguished skate, hip hop and punk culture in San Diego from the 1970s to 1990s.

**MARSTON'S HISTORY EMPORIUM: A HANDS-ON LEARNING LAB**

**GALLERY 2:** Explore, play, and uncover clues like historians do. *Children must be accompanied by an adult. Parents/chaperones are responsible for children's safety and conduct.*

**NATHAN HARRISON: BORN A SLAVE, DIED A SAN DIEGO LEGEND (COMING SOON!)**

**GALLERIES 4,9:** Few people in the history of the United States embody ideals of the American Dream more than legendary African American San Diego homesteader Nathan Harrison, a freed slave who lived in northeastern San Diego County from the 1850s to 1920. Developed in partnership with San Diego State University, this exhibition offers recent discoveries from archaeological excavations at Harrison's cabin combined with in-depth research of historical accounts to offer new insights and perspectives into everyday life in San Diego during the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, and the Progressive Era.

**LGBTQ+ SAN DIEGO: STORIES OF STRUGGLES AND TRIUMPHS**

**GALLERY 5:** San Diego's LGBTQ+ community has faced both tragedy and triumph. This exhibition, in partnership with Lambda Archives of San Diego, focuses on major community themes; Identity, Persecution, Pioneers, Families, and Future. Hear from those in the LGBTQ+ region about the struggles to overcome persecution, the battle with AIDS, bullying, and intolerance, and the power of the community.

**HER-STORY: PIONEERS OF SAN DIEGO**

**GALLERY 6:** The women of the Ladies Pioneer Society arrived in San Diego in the late 1800s from places around the country. Discover the stories of their journeys and their impressions of San Diego through first person accounts. These early female pioneers provide a glimpse into the small, dusty town San Diego once was and invite you to imagine their reality.

**PLACE OF PROMISE: THE STORY OF SAN DIEGO**

**GALLERY 7:** This permanent exhibition showcases San Diego history from 10,000 BCE up to the late 1800s. It traces the extensive transformations this region has undergone as the native peoples, Spanish, Mexican, and American cultures have all shaped the region.

**THE PATH OF THE MYSTIC: ART AND THEOSOPHY AT LOMALAND**

**GALLERY 8:** In 1897, Katherine Tingley established her cultural and communal experiment, the Universal Brotherhood and Theosophical Society, in Point Loma. This exhibit features a selection of artworks, objects, photographs and archival documents from the collections that bring to light the remarkable legacy of art and cultural production at Lomaland and how Tingley's utopian experiment profoundly shaped San Diego's cultural landscape.

**FILM: BALBOA PARK: THE JEWEL OF SAN DIEGO**

**T: Daily screenings at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm**

This entertaining 30-minute documentary on the history and wonder of Balboa Park, San Diego's cultural epicenter, features stunning vistas, motion graphics, aerial photography and an original sound track. *Screening times subject to change.*

**JAHSSD GALLERY:**

**Letters from Santa Anita: Children's Thoughts on Internment**

Clara Breed, a librarian with San Diego Public Library, corresponded with many of the young Japanese Americans interned at Santa Anita Relocation Center. Using these letters and others, their own words will reveal their thoughts and opinions on internment.

**Japanese Businesses in Pre-WWII Downtown San Diego**

The featured map shows the location of the various businesses and the diversity of services they provided.

**A Window into History: Curiosities from our Collections**

See our new artifact exhibition space including a portable forge and anvil.