SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER

December 2025

NOW

Celebrate the Season with Us in Balboa Park

Strike a pose in front of our stunning Poinsettia Tree — the ultimate holiday selfie spot!

Through December 29, the San Diego History Center comes alive with the colors and sounds of the season in *Presentation Ball: San Diego's Connection to the World's Favorite Holiday Flower.*

Standing 16 feet tall and with more than nearly 400 vibrant, living poinsettias, this iconic exhibit is the heart of our holiday exhibition. Discover the rich history of this beloved winter bloom and its deep roots in San Diego while enjoying the perfect backdrop for family photos and festive memories.

San Diego's Holiday Tradition DECEMBER NIGHTS

BALBOA PARK DECEMBER NIGHTS

The San Diego History Center will be open late* for December Nights – Friday, December 5 (6–9pm) and Saturday, December 6 (5–9pm). Enjoy an evening with your friends and family and come into the History Center to visit our new exhibits and special activities.

*We will be closed during the day on December 5 and 6.

DECEMBER 10 THROUGH JANUARY 4

All ages welcome! Activities are free with suggested admission donation.

Let There Be Light

WINTER HOLIDAY TRADITIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Step into the glow of global holiday traditions at the San Diego History Center! From December 10 through January 4, explore the magic of winter "festivals of light" celebrated around the world. Create your own keepsakes with hands-on crafts inspired by:

- Diwali
- Hanukkah
- Bodhi Day
- Yuletide Night
- Dongzhi Festival
- Christmas
- Kwanzaa
- Día de Los Reyes

Make it a family outing—children, grandchildren, and all your loved ones are welcome! Activities are included with admission (donations appreciated). Celebrate the season, discover new traditions, and let your light shine!

POINSETTIA PAINT & SIP

DECEMBER 13 10AM - 1PM

No art experience needed!
All materials provided
Includes two drink tickets.

Join us for a festive evening of creativity inspired by our 16-foot poinsettia tree! Enjoy two drinks, unwind with friends, and be guided through the creation of your own poinsettia-themed masterpiece—no art experience needed. All materials provided.

You'll also learn about San Diego's special connection to the iconic holiday flower and leam some with a keepsake canvas.

🎟️ **Tickets:** Members $30 | General Admission $40
🍷 21+ event; includes two drink tickets
📍 San Diego History Center in the heart of Balboa Park

RSVP TODAY

2026 Innovation Tour Series
Taylor Guitars
January 28

The San Diego History Center kicks off its 2026 Innovation Tour series with an exclusive behind-the-scenes visit to Taylor Guitars on January 28. Founded in 1974 in El Cajon, Taylor Guitars reflects San Diego's spirit of creativity and innovation, from sustainable wood practices to cutting-edge guitar building technology. Its artist community includes Paul McCartney, Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, FINNEAS, and U2's The Edge.

Learn about Taylor's history, craftsmanship, and global impact to understand how a local workshop grew into an international brand.

$25 for Members | $35 for General
Space is limited. Reservations are required.

RSVP TODAY

SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER

Your Support Brings History To Life

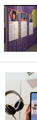
History comes to life every day at the San Diego History Center because of you. Your support fuels transformative educational programs and cultural experiences for thousands across our region.

Thanks to your generosity, students connect with the past through immersive field trips like Stories of San Diego. Visitors also explore Filipino-American identity in *Taste San Diego: Filipino Culinary Journeys*, discover groundbreaking local women in *San Diego Women in STEM: Creativity and Curiosity*, and learn how communities rebuilt after displacement in *San Diego's Lost Neighborhoods*.

These programs are central to our mission — using history to inspire, educate, and build community.

Your gift today ensures these vital initiatives continue. Please invest today and help keep San Diego's history thriving for future generations.

DONATE



The New Center For Women's History Launches On A Remarkable Night

On November 6, the San Diego History Center proudly launched the new Center for Women's History with an inspiring celebration honoring the legacy of the San Diego Women's Hall of Fame inductees, the Women's History Reclamation Project, and the Women's Museum of California. Guests were moved by Professor Starla Lewis, who grounded the evening in truth and reflection, and Olympic Gold Medalist Monique Henderson, whose remarks underscored the power of representation and perseverance.

We are deeply grateful to our event sponsors and to the Peggy & Robert Mettler Foundation for their generous support of this celebration. Their gift helps ensure women's stories are preserved and accessible through a new permanent gallery in the reimagined San Diego History Center. Special thanks to Trustees, Sandra Maas for her leadership and vision for both this event and the new Center for Women's History.

DONATE TODAY

SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER IN THE NEWS

Dr. Tina Zarpour spoke with CBS8 regarding the scope of the new Center for and the $1 million pledge by the Peggy and Robert Mettler Foundation.

SEE CBS8 NEWS STORY

Jim Jessop, San Diego History Center Trustee and Managing Partner of the Jessop Clock LLC, shares time with Drew Schlosberg on **"Spotlight on the Community"** the viral history of the Jessop family and their iconic timepiece. The legendary Jessop Clock will be a featured centerpiece of the new reimagined San Diego History Center in Balboa Park.

LISTEN TODAY

DECEMBER EVENTS

✓ Jolly Us —there's so much to remember.

Do you have a research question or topic you've always wanted to explore? Join us beginning December 16 for a special Member Research Day at the San Diego History Center. Our Research Archives will be open exclusively to members of the San Diego History Center, offering a unique opportunity to dive into original documents, photographs, and rare materials that illuminate San Diego's past.

Whether you're tracing family history, investigating local events, or simply exploring your curiosities, Collections Team will be on hand to guide you through our multiple resources to help you make meaningful discoveries.

RSVP HERE

Women of Balboa Park – Free Guided Tour

Join us for a complimentary walking tour through the iconic Balboa Park, celebrating the rich legacy of Balboa Park. Together, we'll celebrate the remarkable women whose vision, leadership, and creativity helped shape both the Park and San Diego's rich cultural history.

Discover inspiring stories, hidden landmarks, and the lasting legacies of these pioneers as we honor their contributions to our community.

IN REMEMBRANCE

We mourn the loss of Jim Hall, beloved owner of La Playa Books in Point Loma who passed away on October 27. Born in San Diego in 1934, Hall lived a life devoted to learning, service, and community. He served as a navy officer, practiced law, and held the position of California's secretary of health and welfare before following his passion for books. At La Playa Books, he created more than a shop — he built a neighborhood gathering place for readers, a world traveler and mentor to many, Hall will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and the local community.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS IN BALBOA PARK

Explore our flagship museum in Balboa Park and the Junipero Serra Museum in Presidio Park, where visitors and locals alike can discover why the history of San Diego matters today.

Immerse yourself in our fascinating exhibitions and interactive experiences that bring the region's history to life.

SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER
BALBOA PARK
Museum
Wednesday Through Sunday
10AM - 5PM
Museum Journey

JUNIPERO SERRA MUSEUM
PRESIDIO PARK
Museum
Saturday & Sunday
10AM - 4PM
Please check hours for alternate visitation

Join Us on Social Media

Support our mission to preserve, reveal and promote San Diego History!

CLICK HERE TO BECOME A MEMBER

or donate TODAY

The San Diego History Center is a member of the Smithsonian Institution's Museums and Research Centers, the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

Commission for Arts and Culture

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