HAPPY New Year

As we welcome the New Year, the San Diego History Center remains committed to sharing the stories that shape our region through dynamic exhibitions and engaging programs.

In the coming year, we invite you to explore our research archives, join conversations that connect past and present, and experience history in interactive and inspiring ways. Together, we'll continue uncovering San Diego's rich and diverse stories.

Thank you for being part of our community.

DECEMBER 19 THROUGH JANUARY 4

WINTER HOLIDAY TRADITIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Let There Be Light

Final days of Let There Be Light Through January 4

Experience *Let There Be Light: Winter Holiday Traditions from Around the World*. Through January 4 and discover winter festivals of light celebrated across cultures with hands-on make-and-take crafts, music and more.

- Diwali
- Hanukkah
- Bodhi Day
- Yalda Night
- Donghzhi Festival
- Christmas
- Kwanzaa
- Dia De Los Reyes

All ages welcome—activities are free with suggested admission donation.

Closing January 4

The Women in Law & Society Conference

Celebrating 50 Years of Impact

1972–2022

Don't miss your chance to visit the ***Women in Law and Society*** exhibition before it closes on **January 4, 2026.** Celebrating more than 50 years of advancing women's rights in law and society, this exhibition explores the founding of the company Clubs of San Diego and its ongoing legacy of equality in the legal profession. Discover how the organization challenged barriers, advocated for change, and made a lasting impact on the legal landscape in San Diego. Visit before it closes and be inspired to carry this legacy forward.

BALBOA PARK PAID PARKING PROGRAM BEGINS JANUARY 5

Beginning January 5, 2026, the City of San Diego will implement a **City-mandated paid parking program** throughout Balboa Park. This program applies to all public parking lots and select street parking areas.

What you need to know:

- **City of San Diego Resident Discount:** San Diego residents are eligible for discounted parking rates but must register and verify residency in advance through the City's online portal. Proof of residency includes a valid City of San Diego ID and a higher parking rate.
- **ADA parking:** Vehicles displaying a valid state-issued Disabled Person placard or license plate may park free of charge, with no time limits, in designated ADA spaces.
- **Free to pay:** Parking fees can be paid at on-site kiosks or through the Park Smarter mobile app.
- **Closest lot:** If mobility is a concern, the Tier 1 Casa de Balboa Lot located behind our building is recommended; however, this lot fills quickly.
- **Free evenings:** Parking is free after the three hours free, park at Inspiration Point and take the complimentary Balboa Park tram. The tram drops off at the Plaza de Panama, from there, we are a short walk or take the Cars Garden. Please allow approximately 15 minutes travel time.
- **Free mondays:** San Diego Residents may park free at the Zoo and walk to the History Center. The route passes Spanish Village Art Center—an ideal stop before exploring San Diego art in our galleries.

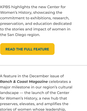
Parking revenue collected in Balboa Park will be reinvested in park maintenance, safety services, and continued operation of the free Balboa Park tram.

READ MORE | **PARKING MAP**

SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER IN THE NEWS

KPBS highlights the new Center for Women's History, showcasing the commitment to exhibitions, research, preservation, and education dedicated to uncovering the untold stories of women in the San Diego region.

READ THE FULL FEATURE



A feature in the December issue of **Ranch & Coast Magazine** celebrates a lifetime of preserving San Diego's cultural landscape—the launch of the Center for Women's History, a new hub that preserves, elevates, and amplifies the stories of women whose leadership, creativity, and courage shaped San Diego's past and continue to influence its future.

READ THE FEATURE

JANUARY EVENTS

FILIPINO KARAOKE

9

Celebrate the start of the New Year with the San Diego History Center and the Council of Philippine American Organizations (COPAO)!

Drop in anytime on January 9 between 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM for an evening filled with music, delicious bites, and drinks inspired by our exhibition *Team San Diego: Filipino Cultural Journeys*.

Stay for a couple of songs and a drink or the whole night as we have culture, tradition, and community.

Admission is free.
Suggested donation $5.

RSVP HERE

MEMBERS ONLY SNEAK PEEK

13

Step behind the scenes and into San Diego's past at our upcoming **Member Research Day.** This special opportunity provides access to the Research Archives to explore the photographs, documents, artifacts, maps, and articles that help tell the story of our region. Our Collections Team will be on site to assist you through your research.

Advance registration is required. Space is limited.

RSVP HERE

HISTORY EXPLORERS

JULIAN GOLD RUSH

17

Strike Gold at History Explorers!

Get ready for a golden adventure at this month's History Explorers! Kids will dive into the Julian Gold Rush, panning for historical artifacts, and try their hand at fun, hands-on "gold panning" activities. Along the way, they'll meet inspiring pioneers and learn how women and pioneering women who helped found the town of Julian.

History Explorers is our free, monthly program for families with kids ages 5–12 to explore San Diego's past through interactive activities and up-close encounters with history.

📅 Saturday, January 17
🕒 Drop-in anytime between 1:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Perfect for curious kids and history-loving families—no registration required.

Balboa Park Women's History Tour

Balboa Park

12:00 pm–1:00 pm

17

Women of Balboa Park – Free Guided Tour

Join us for a complimentary walking tour through the Alice Kleinburger Fountain on the east end of Balboa Park. Together, we'll celebrate the remarkable woman whose vision, leadership, and creativity helped shape Balboa Park and San Diego's rich cultural history.

Discover inspiring stories, hidden landmarks, and the lasting legacies she left behind—and how her work continues to inspire contributions to our community.

SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER

JANUARY 22
6PM - 9PM

Paint & Sip

with Maria Mesa

1220 UNIVERSITY AVE
619.260.8921
SDHISTORY.ORG

Paint & Sip at Cosajo Grill in Hillcrest

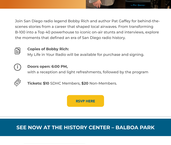
We're kicking off the new year with a painting inspired by San Diego's iconic downtown waterfront, since known as New Town. Enjoy a guided painting session taught by Maria Mesa (*Arte Hasta La Muerte Artist*), sip on great drinks, and learn fun bits of local history along the way.

No experience needed—perfect for all skill levels. All materials will be provided. Drinks and food available for purchase.

$40 per person (21+ event)

RSVP HERE

COMING SOON



ROBOBATTLES WORKSHOP

Presented by Chart Industries FUSION Foundation

FEBRUARY 7
1PM-4PM

Celebrate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science with free, hands-on robotics workshops for girls and their families. Hosted by the Chart Industries FUSION Foundation, kids build STEAM robots, test them in friendly battles, and explore creativity, teamwork, and STEAM learning.

LEGO is a trademark of the LEGO Group, which does not sponsor, authorize or endorse this event site. Image courtesy of the Chart Industries FUSION Foundation.

LEARN MORE

BOBBY RICH

MY LIFE IN YOUR HANDS

JANUARY 17
1:00 PM

Join San Diego radio legend Bobby Rich and author Pat Caffey for behind-the-scenes stories from a career that shaped local airwaves. From transforming 91.100 into a Top 40 powerhouse to iconic on-air stunts and interviews, explore the moments that defined San Diego radio history.

Copies of Bobby Rich:
My Life in Your Radio will be available for purchase and signing.

Doors open: 6:00 PM.
Light a reception and light refreshments, followed by the program

Tickets: $10 SDHC Members, **$20** Non-Members.

RSVP HERE

SEE NOW AT THE HISTORY CENTER - BALBOA PARK

EXPERIENCE THE SERRA MUSEUM - PRESIDIO PARK

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

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

SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER BALBOA PARK

Tuesday
Wednesday to Sunday
10AM - 5PM
$10 Adult
Balboa Park

JUNIPERO SERRA MUSEUM PRESIDIO PARK

Tuesday
Saturday
10AM - 5PM
$10 Adult
Presidio Park

Groups Open Daily by Appointment

located above Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, the Junipero Serra Museum stands on one of the West Coast's most significant historic sites—the location of the Spanish and Mexican government seat in what is now California.

Operated by the San Diego History Center, this defining landmark offers sweeping views of San Diego's river valley and coastline, along with interactive exhibitions, and one of a kind event spaces.

Join Us on Social Media

The San Diego History Center
Balboa Park Cultural Partnership
The Chapel and The City of San Diego
Commission for Arts and Culture

Southwest Airlines

Copyright © 2026, San Diego History Center. All Rights Reserved.

1220 Pacific Beach Drive, San Diego, CA 92109

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe.

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

CLICK HERE TO BECOME A MEMBER

or donate TODAY