

April brings a fresh sense of energy to San Diego as spring unfolds across the region. At the San Diego History Center, it's a season of anticipation, discovery, style, and celebration. Join us for upcoming events and explore the stories that shape our region while connecting with the moments that continue to inspire our community.

**FASHION REDUX**

APRIL 9 6PM- 8PM

**STUDENT REVEAL**



Fashion Redux 2026: Cocktail Hour celebrates 15 years of collaboration between the San Diego History Center and Mesa College. Explore how Prohibition-era rebellion shaped fashion—from Victorian roots to mid-century glamour—featuring historic garments and student designs inspired by our region's archives.

The opening reception includes a live fashion show of the final four student designs, People's Choice voting, and a question and answer session with the student designers. Beer, wine, and light refreshments will be available for purchase.

San Diego History Center Member | Mesa College Student: \$10  
General Public: \$15

[RSVP NOW: AN EVENING OF STYLE AWAITS](#)

**HARLEM of the West JAZZ NIGHT**

APRIL 18 6PM- 8PM



Experience San Diego's Jazz Era on April 18, 6-8 PM at the San Diego History Center in Balboa Park. Enjoy an evening of live music, poetry, and history celebrating Harlem of the West, now the Gaslamp Quarter. Presented by SDHC and the San Diego African American Museum of Fine Art (SDAAMFA) for Jazz Appreciation Month, the event also features the opportunity for guests to experience San Diego's Lost Neighborhoods—an exhibition exploring communities impacted by redlining and displacement.

Live music by New Vision Band blends jazz, gospel, blues, soul, and funk into an uplifting performance. Spoken-word poetry by Dr. Yolanda Marie Franklin draws from Harlem Renaissance writers and local history. Light refreshments will be available.

San Diego History Center and San Diego African American Museum of Fine Art Members: \$30 | General Public: \$40

[RSVP AND CELEBRATE THE SOUND & STORY OF LOCAL JAZZ](#)

**CHALLENGE MET THANK YOU!**

We did it! Thanks to your support, we successfully met the Parker Foundation Match Challenge. Your generosity helped unlock an additional \$7,500 from the Foundation, bringing the total gift to \$42,500.

We're truly grateful for your support and the Parker Foundation for helping make this impact possible.

**APRIL EVENTS**

**PHOTO COLLECTION DRIVE**  
*Bring Your Photos!*

APRIL 11 11AM- 1PM



Help Build a Community Archive—One Photo at a Time

Join the San Diego History Center and the Mike Norris Legacy Legends Foundation for a community photo drive. Share printed photos or digital files to be scanned and preserved in a growing public archive. Enjoy light refreshments and connect with neighbors.

The Southeastern Live Well Center is located at 5101 Market Street, San Diego, CA 92114.

See you there!

**Balboa Park Women's History Tour**

APRIL 18 10:00 AM

**MEMBER RESEARCH DAY**

APRIL 21 10AM- 12PM

Forever Balboa Park and the San Diego History Center's Center for Women's History invite you to a free tour celebrating the women whose vision, leadership, and creativity helped define the legendary Park we know today. Each tour begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Bee Everson Fountain on the Park's east end. Along the way, you'll uncover powerful stories of trailblazers whose lasting impact continues to inspire our community.

Have a research question to explore? Join us for Member Research Day, where our Collections team will be available to help you access materials from our Research Archives and guide your search. This special program is free for SDHC Members as a benefit of membership. \$25 for non-members. Pre-registration required via the "When would you like to visit us?" calendar.

**HISTORY EXPLORERS KATE SESSIONS**

APRIL 25 10:00 AM



Become a History Explorer and discover the legacy of Kate Sessions, the visionary horticulturist known as the "Mother of Balboa Park."

Enjoy free, hands-on activities for all ages—including flower pot decorating—and learn how her vision, strategy, and passion for horticulture helped shape San Diego's landscape.

Drop in anytime between 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**POP-UP ALERT**

APRIL 26 11AM- 4PM



Filipino Food Pop-Up at SDHC

Join us at the San Diego History Center for a special Filipino food pop-up presented by the Council of Philippine American Organizations (COPAO), set inside the exhibition *Taste of San Diego: Filipino Culinary Journeys*.

Enjoy a selection of Filipino dishes—from savory favorites to sweet treats—while exploring the exhibition and the stories behind the cuisine. Come hungry and experience a flavorful celebration of culture and history.

**LA NEIGHBOR**

This exhibition will be closing May 3, 2026



*La Neighbor: A Settlement House 1914-1972* concludes its run in our Balboa Park museum on May 3. The exhibition highlights the legacy of the Neighborhood House in Logan Heights, a vital community space that served generations of San Diego's Mexican American community for more than 60 years.

Originally established in 1914 as a charitable outreach program by the College Women's Club, founded by socially progressive Victorian women, it evolved into a hub for education, healthcare, and cultural connection. Its stories continue to resonate, reflecting the enduring impact of community, resilience, and care. Special thanks to Maria Garcia and Augie Bareño for their help in developing this exhibition, and the nearly two dozen individuals who took the time to sit with us for an oral history interview, and shared their memories and materials.

[SEE THE LA NEIGHBOR COLLECTION ON THE ALL IN SAN DIEGO WEBSITE](#)


**COMING SOON**

San Diego ★ 1776-2026

**AMERICA at 250**

**LUNCH & LEARN CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN RAILROAD**

APRIL 12 11AM- 1PM



**Opening June 18**

Exciting transformations are underway at the San Diego History Center in Balboa Park as we look ahead to America's 250th celebration this summer. As we prepare to unveil a new exhibition *America at 250: San Diego 1776 – 2026*, our *Place of Promise* exhibition and *History Lab* will close in mid-April to make way for this exciting new experience.

Developed in collaboration with UCSD and SDSU students, this new exhibition brings a fresh, emerging perspective to San Diego history—highlighting objects from our collections that tell powerful, unexpected stories.

Stay tuned as we prepare to mark America's 250th with a new lens on our region's past—shaped by the voices of the next generation of historians.

Step into the story that put San Diego on the map. This lunchtime talk explores the arrival of the railroad and the boom that reshaped the region in the late 19th century.

Through rare photographs and firsthand accounts, historian and archivist Bruce Semelsberger of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum brings this pivotal moment to life.

Ticket includes lunch

**Tickets:**  
Center Members: \$35  
General Public: \$45

[RSVP TODAY](#)

Explore our flagship museum in Balboa Park and the Junipero Serra Museum in historic 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**

**HOURS**

Wednesday through Sunday  
10AM - 5PM

[Research Archives](#)

**JUNIPERO SERRA MUSEUM PRESIDIO PARK**

**HOURS**

Saturday & Sunday  
10AM - 4PM

[Please check here for individual closures](#)

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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 funded in part by the County of San Diego and The City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

